

OIC talks bogged down on Gulf war

FEZ, Morocco (R) — A diplomatic battle between Iran and Iraq over the five-year Gulf war is bogging down the annual Islamic Conference of the OIC, which is due to wind up on Friday, Arab diplomats said. Marathon sessions by the conference's political committee failed to break the impasse and the issue has been referred to the ministers in plenary session later on Friday, they said. Iraq has tabled a resolution backed by several countries, including Jordan, Tunisia and Egypt, calling for an immediate cease-fire and withdrawal of troops behind pre-war borders. It also exhorts Iran to cooperate with Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) peace efforts. Iran has tabled a counter-resolution which basically aims at regulating the war by forbidding the use of chemical weapons and attacks on civilian population, the sources said.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، للرأي.

U.N. body to debate Lebanon complaint

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The U.N. Security Council will meet on Monday to consider Lebanon's complaint of "continuing acts of aggression and abusive tactics" by Israeli forces occupying southern Lebanon. A U.N. spokesman announced the session after council members met in private on Friday to review the Lebanese request for action. Diplomatic sources said a draft resolution to condemn the Israelis had been prepared and that the United States appeared certain to invoke its veto to block adoption of the measure. They said both the United States and Israel were likely to use the Monday debate to reopen the question of terrorism, including allegations that Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi backed the guerrilla attacks on the Vienna and Rome airports last month.

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Israel plans to demolish Gaza homes

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Israeli occupation authorities are planning to demolish 60 houses belonging to Arab citizens in Rafah and Khan Younis cities in the occupied Gaza Strip, under the pretext that these houses are not licensed, the Jordanian News Agency Petra said. Owners of the houses, which are inhabited by more than 300 Palestinians, have approached the Israeli authorities requesting that their houses be licensed, but their requests have repeatedly been rejected although the buildings meet the required conditions for licensing, Petra said.

Arafat in Riyadh

BAHRAIN (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat arrived in Riyadh on Thursday for a visit due to last several days, a PLO spokesman in the Saudi capital said. Mr. Arafat arrived from Baghdad and the spokesman said the PLO chief was expected to have talks with King Fahd. He gave no other details.

Spain reaffirms move towards Israel

MADRID (AP) — Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez summoned Arab ambassadors to his office on Friday to tell them Spain planned to go ahead with its intention to establish diplomatic relations with Israel this year, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. A meeting last week in Tunis, members of the Arab League urged Spain to drop its move towards Israel, the spokesman said. General Chadli Benjedid told reporters he planned to visit Madrid to impress upon the government of Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez "the gravity of such a change." Spokesman Asuncion Fernandez de Cordoba said the ministry was "studying" Mr. Chadli's request.

Columbia launch reset for Sunday

CAPE CANAVERAL (AP) — The launch of the shuttle Columbia on its first flight in more than two years was postponed for a second seventh time on Friday as wind and heavy rain belted the shuttle on its launch pad. The launching was rescheduled for Sunday at 6:55 a.m., giving technicians a day to check the shuttle's propellant lines for possible damage as a result of three fueling tests this week. It was the fourth postponement for the flight in five days.

Group of five ministers to meet

LONDON (R) — Finance ministers from the five leading industrialised nations will meet in London for private talks on Jan. 31 and 19, a Treasury (Finance Ministry) spokesman said on Friday. An earlier report by Reuters said the meeting between the so-called "Group of Five" would be held on Jan. 20. The spokesman said it would be a routine meeting following the agreement reached between the member countries — the United States, France, Britain, West Germany and Japan — in New York last September to cooperate in steering the dollar lower.

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Jordan lodges strong protest at U.N. over Israeli action at Aqsa

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Jordan has lodged a strong protest at the United Nations against an attempt by a team of Israeli parliamentarians to enter the Haram Al Sharif area in occupied Jerusalem and described the Israeli move as a "provocative action against the feelings of hundreds of millions of Muslims."

In a note delivered to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Jordan said the Israeli action was a link in a chain of plans aimed at obliterating Islamic and Christian holy places in Jerusalem and elsewhere in the occupied Arab territories. "The statement, delivered by Jordan's permanent representative to the U.N., Mr. Abdullah Salah, said that Jordan, while denouncing and strongly condemning the Israeli action, was deeply concerned about the dimension of such an aggressive action, which will not serve the peace and stability in the region."

The Israeli action, the note added, was in violation of international principles and laws which provide that an occupying power should refrain from interfering in the normal life of the civilian population under occupation. "Such principles and laws also ban an occupying power from attacking places of worship and interfering in the freedom of worship in such places, it pointed out."

Mr. Salah requested the secretary-general to circulate the note

as one of the official documents of the U.N. General Assembly and Security Council.

In Amman, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai said on Thursday the government was concerned over the visit by Israeli deputies to Haram Al Sharif, site of one of Islam's holiest shrines.

Mr. Rifai told the Lower House of Parliament Jordan had taken up the issue with Arab governments and international bodies, including the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

Israeli police had to escort the 10 Israeli parliamentarians from the site, housing Al Aqsa Mosque, after hundreds of angry Palestinians clashed with them and prevented them from entering the area.

The Foreign Ministry said later that it had asked Jordan's envoys in New York and Paris to convey details of the aggression to chiefs of the United Nations and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

A statement carried by the Jordanian News Agency Petra said a similar message was sent to

Worshippers banned from Al Aqsa

AMMAN (Petra) — The Israeli occupation authorities on Friday banned worshippers from attending prayers at Al Aqsa Mosque in occupied Jerusalem. News reaching here from Jerusalem said that large numbers of Israeli soldiers were besieging the Ibrahim mosque area in Hebron since Wednesday. Israeli soldiers are also laying a siege on main mosques in West Bank cities and villages in fear of escalation by Arabs of their protest against the occupation and Israel's violation of the sanctity of holy places. Israeli gangs have also stuck pamphlets on the walls of Jerusalem and other Arab cities threatening Arabs of killing and expulsion.

The OIC secretary-general for circulation among Islamic foreign ministers now meeting in Fez, Morocco.

Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat issued a statement in Amman condemning the Israeli action as criminal.

Mr. Khayyat said that such action contradicts international laws and defies the feelings of Muslim people. The minister urged all Arab and Islamic organisations to help the Arabs to defend their holy shrines in the face of the Israeli atrocities.

Amnesty to probe prisoner abuse by SLA and Israelis

LONDON (AP) — Amnesty International, the worldwide human rights group, said on Friday it was seeking an inquiry into reports that prisoners were being abused at a prison controlled by Israel's allies in South Lebanon. Israel says the prison is entirely controlled by the South Lebanese Army (SLA), which acts as Israel's proxy in the country. But Amnesty International said it had received reports that Israeli intelligence officers were supervising interrogations by SLA men which often involved torture. It denied an Israeli Radio report that it had asked to visit prisoners at the lockup in Al Khiam, four kilometres north of the Israeli border with Lebanon. Spokesman David Laucht said the organisation had asked for independent bodies like the International Red Cross to visit the prisoners.

He said Amnesty International had asked its members worldwide to send appeals to Israeli and South Lebanon Army authorities for an inquiry.

Laucht said Amnesty International had not seen any of the prisoners, but had received "a number of reports whose consistency suggests a systematic pattern in the way detainees are treated in Al Khiam prison."

These reports said detainees were not subject to any kind of judicial process, were denied legal advice, were not formally charged, not brought before any court, given no right of appeal and no opportunity to answer the accusations against them, Laucht said.

"The information received by Amnesty International indicates that it is Israeli intelligence officers who decide who is to be

Peres pressing for early Taba solution

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres was pressing on Friday for resolution to a longstanding border dispute which threatens Israel's peace accord with Egypt.

"We must guard against turning our first peace treaty into a failure," Peres told French Republican Party leader Francois Leonard, adding "we are very close to resolving our problems with Egypt."

A Labour Party official close to Peres said the premier gave top priority to resolving the issue and might be forced to cancel his three-nation European trip later this month if agreement could not be reached at a cabinet meeting scheduled for Sunday.

"It is shaping up as a showdown. But there have been so many previous crises that it is difficult to be certain" if the issue threatened the continued existence of Peres' fragile coalition government, the official said on

condition of anonymity.

The inner cabinet, equally divided between Peres' supporters and rightists led by Shamir, will meet again on Sunday to seek a united Israeli position on the issue, state radio said.

Peres wants to accept Egypt's call for the border dispute to go arbitration. Shamir says Cairo should first improve relations and return its ambassador, withdrawn in protest after Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

Resolving a dispute over Taba, is considered essential to proving the durability of Israel's March 1979 treaty with Egypt and a prerequisite to further Mideast peace talks.

Peres, speaking Thursday night to supporters, said: "I warn against, heaven forbid, letting the first peace with Egypt turn into the last peace with an Arab country. Then I would see no chance for peace in our generation and the coming generations."

Cairo appeals against new autopsy in Khater case

CAIRO (AP) — The Egyptian government has appealed a court order for a new autopsy to determine if a former policeman convicted of killing seven Israelis committed suicide, a leading newspaper reported Friday.

The state-owned daily Al Ahram said the government's legal department filed two separate motions after a Cairo court on Thursday ordered the body of former Sgt. Saleh Khater exhumed and a second autopsy performed.

Legal sources said the government action would stay the exhumation pending a judicial review. Government officials were closed on Friday, and efforts to confirm the report were unsuccessful.

Lawyer Abdul Halim Ramadan, who asked for a second autopsy on behalf of Khater's family, said he was unaware of the appeals.

On Tuesday, the government announced that Khater, 24, had committed suicide in his prison

hospital room. Some opposition groups within Egypt, as well as several organisations outside the country, have hailed Khater as a hero for killing the Israelis at his Sinai border post Oct. 5.

Announcement of his death triggered student demonstrations in Cairo and Zagazig. Al Ahram said one government motion objected to the exhumation order on "substantive grounds" and the other raised "procedural objections" on which the newspaper did not elaborate.

Mr. Ramadan told the Associated Press he was surprised that the government would object to a new autopsy. Khaled Mohieddin, leader of the leftist National Progressive Unionist Party, had proposed that special committees made up of medical experts and political party representatives be formed to investigate Khater's death.



Palestinians and Israeli soldiers confront each other at Al Aqsa Mosque

Arabs to discuss Libya-U.S. conflict at end of January

FEZ, MOROCCO (R) — Arab foreign ministers agreed on Friday to hold a special meeting to discuss the bitter dispute between Libya and the United States. Bahrain's Foreign Minister Mohammad Ibn Mubarak Al Khalifa said.

But they put off the date of the session until the end of January, he said.

Libya had requested an urgent meeting after the imposition of economic sanctions by the Reagan administration, asking that it be held next Tuesday in Tunis.

Most Arab foreign ministers are in Fez for the annual meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

The 46-member OIC on Thursday approved a strongly-worded resolution condemning the U.S. measures against Libya and asking Washington to rescind them.

The Islamic group includes several of Washington's allies such as Turkey and Pakistan, and the condemnation of the U.S. moves was seen by diplomats as a success for Libya.

The declaration said the conference "condemns the measures decided by the government of the United States against Libya, which contravene international law and customs."

The meeting reaffirmed its "unqualified solidarity with Libya against these sanctions which infringe upon the sovereignty and independence of the peoples of Libya and also seek to undermine its economic and development plans."

"(The meeting) calls upon the government of the United States to rescind these oppressive economic measures, and reaffirms their illegality," the statement said. "It calls upon the Islamic nations to take the necessary actions deemed appropriate to counter these oppressive American measures."

Although the Arab meeting will not be as soon as Libya requested, Libyan Foreign Minister Ali Abdul Salam Al Tureki told reporters on Friday: "I am fully satisfied with the solidarity expressed."

He said Libya was seeking concrete steps from the Arab World but declined to specify what these were.

Asked about reports that the Washington-Tripoli row over Libya's alleged support for terrorism had led to a sharp fall in the dollar, Mr. Tureki said he thought the freezing of Libyan assets in the United States would hurt the U.S. economy.

"The United States has become a risk country," he said. "I think it will hurt the American economy. There is no guarantee there when the head of the administration can impose that kind of measure."

Thatcher opposes sanctions on Libya

LONDON (Agencies) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher resolutely refused on Friday to follow the United States in applying economic sanctions against Libya and rejected any anti-terrorist steps that defy international law.

During a 75-minute meeting with American correspondents, Mrs. Thatcher was asked whether she would join in sanctions similar to those imposed by the United States against Libya earlier this week. These included ordering U.S. companies and workers out of Libya and freezing Libyan government assets in the United States.

Mrs. Thatcher said "I do not think... sanctions against Libya would work. The materials would be supplied by other countries. In theory sanctions work, but they only work if adopted 100 per cent, and I don't know any place in which they have been adopted 100 per cent."

Mrs. Thatcher was asked what she would think of pre-emptive or retaliatory strikes to stem terrorism. She replied that these, as well as hot pursuit, were "contrary to international law."

She added, "Once one fails to observe the borders of other countries you will have much greater chaos."

Mrs. Thatcher said "I accept that terrorism is against international law, but you have to fight it with legal means."

U.S. Secretary of State George P. Shultz said on Thursday the United States was near the "end of the rope" in applying economic pressure on Libya and would consider using force, if necessary, to counter what it says is state-sponsored terrorism by Libya.

Mr. Shultz is sending his deputy, John Whitehead, to Europe to try to persuade U.S. allies to support the American campaign to isolate Libya economically.

Mrs. Thatcher said her government would talk with Mr. Whitehead, but made it clear she would

not join in sanctions. Italy has suspended arms sales to Libya following the U.S. call for global economic sanctions. Italian Foreign Ministry officials said Friday.

The suspension will apply to all arms contracts signed between Italy and Libya, said the officials, who asked not to be identified. He said the two countries have concluded no arms sales contracts since 1981.

Foreign ministers of the 12 Common Market nations will meet on Jan. 21 to seek a joint position on the U.S. trade embargo of Libya, the chief West German government spokesman said Friday.

Friedhelm Ost said the European ministers' meeting will take place in The Hague, and that the ministers will also discuss ways to step up the fight against international terrorism.

The meeting was jointly called for by Italy and France, with the approval of West Germany. Ost told reporters at a press conference in Bonn.

A rare divergence of opinion has emerged between West Germany and the United States over the U.S. imposition of economic sanctions against Libya.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl, one of the Washington's closest allies, is refusing to implement economic measures against Tripoli.

It is the first time that Bonn has openly differed with Washington over a major foreign policy question since Dr. Kohl became chancellor in October 1982.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has warned that continued threats by the United States against his country were pushing Libya toward communism and more cooperation with the Soviet Union.

Col. Qadhafi spoke to five Western women journalists, after a news conference at which he

(Continued on page 3)

Assad, Gemayel to hold key peace summit on Monday

BEIRUT (Agencies) — President Amin Gemayel will meet Syrian leader Hafez Al Assad in Damascus on Monday to discuss growing Christian opposition to a militia peace agreement formally ending Lebanon's civil war, officials said Friday.

They said the date was fixed in contacts between Beirut and Damascus, but refused to comment on local radio reports that the two presidents spoke to each other by telephone on Friday.

Beirut radios said artillery and mortar shells slammed into hills overlooking Mr. Gemayel's palace as militiamen and army troops exchanged fire, but no casualties were reported.

Presidential sources told Reuters Mr. Gemayel, who has withheld outright support for the Syrian-backed accord, was expected to explain to Mr. Assad why some Christian leaders oppose it.

Syria has also called leaders of Lebanon's three strongest militias to Damascus for urgent talks on Friday to set a timetable implementing the peace pact.

The Syrian move, apparently aimed at speeding up the stalled peace process, came amid widening Christian opposition to the accord signed in Damascus Dec. 28.

Militia sources told the AP senior negotiators of the three main militias who signed the accord were summoned for a meeting with Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khadham, the pact's architect.

Beirut radio said the main item on the Gemayel-Assad summit agenda will be the formation of a coalition cabinet in Beirut to oversee the armistice and introduce political reforms giving Muslims an equal share of power with the traditionally dominant Christians.

Under Lebanon's constitution, only Mr. Gemayel, as head of state, can dissolve the current nine-man cabinet of Prime Minister Rashid Karami and decree the formation of a new government.

But the Maronite Catholic president has been reluctant to endorse the pact because it curbs his powers and because he was not consulted by Syria during negotiations with his militia rivals.

The pact was signed by Walid Junblatt for the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), Justice Minister Nabih Berri for the Shi'ite Muslim Arab movement and Elie Hobeika for the "Lebanese Forces," the mostly Christian rightist militia.

Heseltine steps up Westland campaign after resigning from Thatcher cabinet

LONDON (R) — Just 24 hours after his resignation as defence secretary, Michael Heseltine on Friday stepped up his campaign for a European rescue operation to save Britain's ailing Westland helicopter firm.

At a London news conference he made an 11th-hour appeal for Westland shareholders to reject a rival bid by the American-Italian partnership of Sikorsky and Fiat when they hold a crucial meeting next Tuesday.

The future of Britain's only helicopter company was at the heart of Mr. Heseltine's decision to quit Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's cabinet in which he had fought a lone campaign for a European rather than an American way out of Westland's troubles.

Virtually acting as a spokesman for the European consortium seeking a 29.9 per cent stake in Westland, Mr. Heseltine used the news conference to urge pro-Sikorsky shareholders to change their minds and file fresh votes by proxy.

The £75 million (\$108 million)



Michael Heseltine

European offer was strengthened by one major shareholder antagonistic to the Sikorsky option, which is favoured by the Westland board.

Alan Bristow, who made a bid for Westland last year but then withdrew it, raised his holdings from three to 10.5 per cent in a move that could affect the outcome of Tuesday's meeting.

He spent £4.8 million (\$6.8 million) to boost his holdings on Thursday and now has enough shares to influence the 75 per cent

vote needed for approval of the Sikorsky deal, worth £74 million (\$103.6 million).

"I hope shareholders will now rally round me," he said. "The European offer is undoubtedly the better one."

Mr. Heseltine steadfastly refused on Friday to answer questions about the political controversy surrounding his walkout from the Thatcher cabinet, saying: "This is forbidden territory." He also declined to be drawn into criticism of the Westland board.

Mr. Heseltine put the familiar case that a link with European companies would fit better into a developing pattern of European collaboration, whereas in the Sikorsky deal Westland might lose its own design capacity.

As defence secretary he won many admirers on the continent by the purposeful part he played in two years of negotiations on the European fighter aircraft programme, a £10 billion (\$14 billion) project linking companies in Britain, West Germany, Italy and France.

Iraq forced Iran to delay offensive, commander says

THIRD ARMY HEADQUARTERS, Southern Iraq (R) — Iraq has retaken from Iran most of the oil-rich Majnoon Islands and forced Tehran to postpone a planned Gulf war ground offensive, an Iraqi general said.

"We have kicked the enemy out of the biggest part of the islands and cornered him in a small area, which will be dealt with in the near future," Maj. Gen. Maher Abed Al Rashid, the Third Army Corps commander, told reporters visiting the front Thursday.

Iran captured the desolate islands, north of the southern Iraqi Gulf port of Basra, early in 1984. It said at the time there were some 50 oil wells on Majnoon, believed to stand on deposits estimated to be worth billions of dollars.

Gen. Rashid, speaking at his headquarters on the Shatt Al Arab waterway at the head of the Gulf, said the area was recaptured during a surprise attack on Monday.

Reporters taken deep inside

Majnoon, north of the Iraqi Gulf port of Basra, saw advanced Iranian positions through binoculars. The two sides exchanged a few artillery barrages and heavy machinegun fire was heard from the northern part.

Of a big Iranian troop build-up on the southern front, in an area of the Hawzab Marshes near Majnoon, Gen. Rashid said: "Our powerful deterrent force made them postpone the offensive."

Gen. Rashid, whose army corps is one of four defending southern Iraq, said the air force had played a major role in breaking up enemy concentrations.

President Saddam Hussein said in a speech on Monday that any fresh Iranian offensive would end in catastrophe for Tehran's leaders.

A high command communiqué the same day said two brigades from the Third Army Corps had launched a surprise attack and liberated several kilometres of territory, killing hundreds of Iranians and wounding many more.

Gen. Rashid put the recaptured area at three kilometres wide and 8.5 kilometres long, adding that other parts of the islands were retaken in three attacks last year.

An aide to the general said the total area of the islands was 4.5 kilometres by 10 kilometres.

Gen. Rashid did not give his side's casualty figures for Monday's attack, but said Iranian shelling had killed two Iraqis and wounded seven in rear lines.

Reporters taken to the islands in fast-moving jeeps passed dozens of earth roads built by the Iraqi army and government workers. A few Iranian shells fell either side of the roads.

An Iranian mortar bomb fell in marsh water about 300 metres from Gen. Rashid when he stopped his jeep near Majnoon to

explain the position to the reporters.

Iraq has brought up hundreds of trucks, bulldozers and other earth-moving equipment to build roads across the marsh waters and to dry areas around the Majnoon oil fields.

A brigadier with the group said engineering squads had dried hundreds of square kilometres in the Hawzab Marshes and built dozens of roads in the area.

The brigadier, who did not give his name, said: "We brought huge pumps to pump the marsh waters from our side to the Iranian side, thus flooding the enemy and paving the way for our army to counter his moves."

The reporters saw a high earthenwork structure stretching into the distance, which the brigadier said was aimed at hampering enemy movements.

Returning from Majnoon, reporters were driven close to two oil wells in the Ghuzayil area, which the brigadier said had been recaptured from Iranian troops in recent weeks.

Howe's Gulf tour to focus on Mideast

LONDON (R) — British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe leaves Saturday on a visit to Gulf Arab states which will focus on the Middle East peace process and the war between Iran and Iraq.

Government sources said the four-day visit to Oman, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait would also provide Sir Geoffrey with an opportunity to discuss bilateral relations between Britain and the three Arab states, which are major buyers of British arms.

The Foreign Office said Sir Geoffrey would meet his opposite numbers in the three states and also call on Saudi King Fahd.

Britain has said it remains keen to help promote peace between Israel and its Arab neighbours despite Sir Geoffrey's decision last October to cancel talks with two leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

During the visit Sir Geoffrey will reiterate Britain's desire for a negotiated settlement to the war between Iran and Iraq.

Britain has in the past drawn criticism from Iraq and its Gulf allies for selling arms to Iran. While publicly taking a neutral line on the war, it has supplied Iran with two naval support ships and military spare parts since the war broke out in 1980.

The three Gulf states, fearing a spill-over of the Iran-Iraq war, have repeatedly called on Tehran and Baghdad to end their hostilities through peaceful negotiations.

Arab diplomats said Sir Geoffrey was expected to receive approval from the Gulf states for Britain's refusal this week to join the United States in economic sanctions against Libya.

Soviets set to boost profile in Gulf

KUWAIT (R) — A top Soviet defence team will arrive in Kuwait Saturday, boosting Moscow's profile in the Gulf amid mounting Arab disenchantment with the United States.

Deputy Defence Minister Gen. Vladimir Govorov will lead the highest-ranking defence team sent to Kuwait, until recently the only member of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to have diplomatic ties with Moscow.

Diplomats said the six-day visit is part of a Soviet push to widen ties in the area and might herald efforts by Moscow to penetrate arms markets so far closed to it.

"Moscow must surely try to capitalise in every way on Arab disenchantment with the U.S. over its action this week against Libya," one Western diplomat said.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze already has sought to portray the U.S. sanctions against Libya as "a flagrant and pointed disregard for the sovereignty of states."

Weeks after Oman agreed to establish diplomatic relations with Moscow, the Soviet Union and the United Arab Emirates said in November they would exchange ambassadors. Gulf-based diplomats have suggested that Bahrain and Qatar might follow.

These states, along with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, comprise the GCC, which has become one of the world's largest markets for arms since the 1973 Arab-Israeli war.

Apart from Kuwait, a big buyer of Soviet arms, GCC states are equipped mainly by Britain, France and the United States.

Kuwait's Defence Minister, Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, said he

would discuss "military affairs, especially armaments" with Gen. Govorov.

The Kuwait News Agency, KUNA, said the Soviet team would "examine the suitability of advanced Soviet-made weaponry to the needs of the Kuwaiti army."

But diplomats said this did not necessarily mean new arms deals. The two sides might merely review the performance of equipment already sold to Kuwait, they added.

In Moscow last August, Sheikh Salem arranged a deal to boost mainly air defences, which KUNA reported was worth more than \$300 million.

The diplomats said Gen. Govorov was expected to show interest in progress towards a joint GCC strike force set up over the past year to combat threats to Gulf security. The force has no collective arsenal.

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He said he had some differences on tactics but "no significant policy differences" with Washington while George Shultz had been secretary of state.

Iran seeks to recover parts for U.S.-made jets

NICOSIA, Cyprus (Agencies) — Iran has filed a complaint with the international court at the Hague to try to recover fighter jet spare parts it claims the United States had stolen, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Friday.

IRNA, monitored here, quoted an unnamed senior official at Iran's Office for International Law Services as saying that Iran was seeking the return of spare parts for U.S.-made F-14 warplanes.

The complaint alleges that the spare parts were "robbed" by agents of the U.S. government from a warehouse where they were being stored, the IRNA said.

It said that the equipment should have been turned over to Iran under the so-called Algiers Accord, which is the Algerian-brokered agreement that ended the one-year hostage ordeal in Tehran for 52 Americans on Jan. 20, 1981.

Iran contends that the United States "refused to release the spare parts under the pretext of being military equipment" and later removed them from the warehouse where they were in storage.

The IRNA report did not give details on the volume or value of the goods.

The United States had banned trade with Iran and had frozen Iranian assets in the United States during the hostage crisis.

As part of the Algerian-brokered agreement, it freed most of the financial assets and set up a procedure through the court at the Hague to settle commercial claims on both sides.

Iran had been a major purchaser of U.S. weaponry during the regime of the late Iranian Shah, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, prior

to the 1979 formation of the Islamic Republic under Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Experts say that the lack of spare parts for its weaponry, such as fighter jets, has hampered Iran's efforts to fight Iraq. The neighbouring countries have been at war for more than five years.

Meanwhile the Iranian parliament Thursday voted to stiffen conditions of national service, approving a bill that all drafted soldiers should spend one year in operational zones on the Gulf war front or in north western Kurdistan.

Speakers said they wanted amendments to the law to prevent people from using influence to secure soft postings for relatives in Tehran or provincial cities.

The chief of the draft board, Col. Khalil Razmju, told Eteelaat newspaper this week the amendments were also intended to make life more difficult for draft-dodgers.

After a three-month grace period, Col. Razmju said men who failed to register would have to serve three to six months extra in the armed forces after they were caught.

Police had been ordered to seek out, arrest and imprison for up to three years anybody employing such a person during wartime, he said.

Young men who have not registered for national service cannot receive diplomas or degrees, get a business permit, leave the country or be employed by the government in any capacity.

Boys cannot normally leave Iran after the beginning of the year in which they become 15, and unless further education is undertaken national service starts in the year they turn 19.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Syria executes 2 for spying

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria has executed two brothers for spying for Israel, diplomatic sources have said. An official source said Nafeh Fuad Hassa, 26, was publicly hanged for "spying and supplying to the Israeli enemy information detrimental to Syria's security and military and economic establishment." The diplomatic sources said he was the brother of Faisal Fuad Hassan, 48, who was executed Wednesday, also for spying for Israel. Both men were Circassians from the Hama region, they said. Details of the charges against them were not known.

Israel gives life sentence to Arab

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli military court has sentenced a Palestinian from the occupied West Bank town of Hebron to life imprisonment for stabbing to death an Israeli soldier and wounding another, military officials said. The soldiers were attacked four months ago while guarding a house taken over by ultra-nationalist Jewish settlers in the heart of the Arab town, a flashpoint of Jewish-Arab tension. The army identified the convicted Palestinian as Hanis Said Jabir, 21. The court also sentenced Nassar Abido to nine years imprisonment for hurling 10 fire bombs in anti-Israel protests in the West Bank. One fire bomb hit a reserve soldier and another damaged a tour bus.

Israel urges S. Lebanese to return home

TEL AVIV (AP) — Presidents of a South Lebanese Shi'ite village who fled the area last month have been asked to return home, Israeli Foreign Ministry sources said Friday. The village, Kounine, lies inside Israel's self-declared "security belt" north of its border with Lebanon. Several houses in the village were destroyed last month by Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia after two SLA officers were killed and an Israeli army liaison officer wounded in firing from a house on the outskirts of Kounine. Many of Kounine's 400 residents, fearing further bloodshed, fled to seek shelter north of the zone.

Rome gunman back in prison

ROME (R) — Mohammad Sharam, the only survivor of the four gunmen who attacked Rome airport last month, was transferred from a military hospital to a top-security prison Wednesday night, police sources said. Sharam, who underwent surgery at Rome's Celio Military Hospital, was taken to a prison with medical facilities. He sustained gunshot wounds during the Dec. 27 attack, which killed 16 people including three of the attacking gunmen. The location of the prison was not disclosed.

TV & RADIO

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MAIN CHANNEL

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18:10 Cartoons
18:20 Children's programme
18:30 News
18:40 Different Stories
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FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Programme: Ecole des

18:10 les grands travaux de l'archéologie

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19:00 News in Urdu

19:10 News in Persian

19:20 News in Russian

19:30 News in Chinese

19:40 News in Japanese

19:50 News in Korean

20:00 News in Vietnamese

20:10 News in Thai

20:20 News in Indonesian

20:30 News in Malay

20:40 News in Tagalog

20:50 News in Filipino

21:00 News in Hindi

21:10 News in Urdu

21:20 News in Persian

21:30 News in Russian

21:40 News in Chinese

21:50 News in Japanese

22:00 News in Korean

22:10 News in Vietnamese

22:20 News in Thai

22:30 News in Indonesian

22:40 News in Malay

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23:00 News in Filipino

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23:30 News in Persian

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24:10 News in Korean

24:20 News in Vietnamese

24:30 News in Thai

24:40 News in Indonesian

24:50 News in Malay

25:00 News in Tagalog

25:10 News in Filipino

25:20 News in Hindi

25:30 News in Urdu

25:40 News in Persian

25:50 News in Russian

26:00 News in Chinese

26:10 News in Japanese

26:20 News in Korean

26:30 News in Vietnamese

26:40 News in Thai

26:50 News in Indonesian

27:00 News in Malay

27:10 News in Tagalog

27:20 News in Filipino

27:30 News in Hindi

27:40 News in Urdu

27:50 News in Persian

28:00 News in Russian

28:10 News in Chinese

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28:30 News in Korean

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"If you look in totality, you can sense a basic urban beauty which needs polishing up," said Mr. Loukan. Mrs. Habib agreed, "Amman has the advantage of

Mrs. Habis maintained that Amman lacks homogeneity, as houses and buildings are in many

"With local talent we are capable of capturing the spirit of the Jordanian people," "and we certainly do not need imported ren-

Dr. Qasem Abdul Rahim Malhas from Jordan, for his role in raising the level of health services in this country.

Tripoli were tantamount to "neoglobalism" and showed that Washington was bent on hegemony, he said.

They say they are questioning about whether they have participated in military operations, pressed for information about resistance forces or urged to col-

Jordan Times

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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: Israel's new aggression

JORDAN HAS complained to the United Nations against Israel's new acts of aggression against Al Haram Al Sharif in Jerusalem and urged world organisations to take all possible measures to stop Israel's atrocities. Jordan has reacted strongly to the new Israeli actions because it constitute a real provocation of Arab and Islamic feelings. The Israelis have sent members of parliament to storm the holy shrine in Jerusalem in defiance of Muslim religious feelings and beliefs. This action is in line with Zionist policies of seizing all Arab and Islamic property and evicting the Arabs from their homeland. Jordan raised the issue with the international community which must act now and put an end to Israel's arrogance and irresponsible actions. For the Arabs, they should realise that only through concerted efforts and intrinsic force can they regain their rights and their lands.

Al Dustour: Israeli attacks on Muslim shrines

ZIONIST EXTREMISTS have for two consecutive days tried to storm the holy shrine of Al Haram Al Sharif in Jerusalem in defiance of Arab and Islamic feelings. They have tried to raise the Israeli flag on the gates of the holy place in a flagrant defiance of the Muslim rights in their holy places, and as a sign that the Zionists are intent on evicting the Arabs and the Muslims from them. The action assumes serious proportions since the group trying to storm the holy shrine included Israeli parliament members and cabinet ministers. One of the ministers, Ariel Sharon, has openly declared his support for such actions, thus explicitly manifesting the official Israeli policies and reflecting the Zionist ideology of seizing all Islamic and Arab places and evicting their legitimate owners. The recurrent Israeli attacks on religious places in Jerusalem and other places in the occupied West Bank reveal Israel's real intention, and are considered as another link in Israel's attempts to demolish holy places which stand out as a symbol of Arabs and Muslims in the occupied Arab territory.

Sawt Al Shaab: In defiance of Muslims feelings

THE ATTACKS on the Islamic holy places in Jerusalem should be met with strong reaction on the part of Arabs and Muslims since such attacks constitute a defiance for their national and religious feelings. What are the Arabs and Muslims waiting for, and what are they doing in the face of Sharon's arrogance and Zionist atrocities and desecration of holy places? The recent Zionist actions in Jerusalem are a flagrant defiance of our feelings and our beliefs, and we should not counter this action with mere denunciation or condemnation, as we normally do. The holy places in Jerusalem represent a symbol of the presence of Arabs and Muslims in the occupied territory and any tampering with them should be regarded as a means of obliterating our culture, our religion and our presence in our usurped land. The issue of Jerusalem should constitute the only topic for the Islamic Conference Organisation in Fez, and the ministers' meeting there should take proper action to put an end to Israel's atrocities in our land.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: The only way

THE WHOLE international community recognises the rights of the Palestinian people in their land and the right to pursue the struggle for regaining it. The United States president has chosen to ignore this right in his press conference which reflected a negative attitude towards the Arabs' just cause. The president's statements contained falsehoods which contradict the views of the rest of the international community which backs the Palestinian people's rights to self-determination. The building up of an intrinsic Arab force constitutes the only means of making the American president realise the need for giving impetus to the peace process, and this force serves as the best means for the Arabs to confront the common challenges they face everyday. The Arabs face the problem of persuading the United States to stop placing obstacles in the path of peace and to stop pretending that the Palestine problem is a mere problem of refugees who live here and there. The United States should realise that all its attempts to thwart Arab endeavours to regain their rights will be doomed and that the Palestinian people which has repeatedly rejected evil designs will continue to reject all that which does not serve the legitimate rights of the Palestinians in their homeland.

Sawt Al Shaab: Salute to steadfastness

WE REALLY feel quite helpless and insulted watching our holy places being desecrated by Zionists in Jerusalem, who are continuing to implement their conspiracies and plots against our Palestinian people and their land. But we salute the steadfastness and the struggle of the Arab people under Israeli rule, trying to defend their land and liberate themselves from the yoke of occupation. The attempt by a Zionist group to storm Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem constitutes another link in a long chain of Zionist plots against the Christian and Muslim holy places and Arab culture. The Arab people of Palestine have been exposed to continued repressive actions including detention, eviction or torture and now they are put to face desecration of their holy places, something which really provokes our feelings and draws indignation and rage. But the Arabs should transform this rage into useful force to back endeavours for liberating our lands and holy places from Israeli occupation.

3 years after birth, Contadora initiative is on deathbed

By Bernard Debesmann
Reuter

MEXICO CITY — Three years after it was born, the Contadora peace initiative for war-torn Central America is on its deathbed and peace seems farther away than ever in the troubled region.

"Contadora is like a patient on a life support machine waiting to have the plug pulled," said a Western diplomat who has followed the troubled diplomatic effort since it was launched on Jan. 8, 1983.

When Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela and Panama first met on the Panamanian island which gave the peace effort its name, hopes were high that the prestige and diplomatic weight of the founder countries could help convince the warring parties to trade their guns for olive branches.

Such hopes proved futile. While Contadora diplomats held dozens of meetings, an estimated 30,000

people died in civil wars in Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala.

In Nicaragua alone, according to government figures, more than 6,000 people were killed in 1985 — 110 a week — in fighting between the army and right-wing insurgents backed by the United States.

In El Salvador, the war between left-wing rebels and the U.S.-backed government claimed about 3,000 lives, and scores were killed in Guatemala's fighting between leftists and the right-wing military government.

Contadora failed to staunch the bloodshed despite wide and ever growing international support for its efforts. The initiative has drawn praise from the United Nations, the Organisation of American States, and at one time or another, all of the Central American republics.

The group's basic goals included an end to foreign military

involvement in Central America, an end to the arms race and an end to the use of one country's territory to subvert another.

These aims drew loud cheers from the international community but were ignored by the United States as well as the Soviet Union and Cuba, the countries routinely described as "parties with interests in the region" by Contadora communities.

The U.S. has been providing billions of dollars worth of weapons and military assistance for its friends in Central America — above all El Salvador and Honduras — and helped raise a powerful insurgent army which is fighting for the overthrow of Nicaragua's elected Sandinista government.

In turn, the Soviet Union and Cuba pumped arms and assistance into Nicaragua, whose 64,000-strong army is now the biggest in Central America.

Diplomats in Central America feel Contadora is doomed to die

unless the U.S., the dominant power in the region, displays genuine commitment to diplomatic solutions.

"In an area which has turned into part of the East-West conflict," said a European envoy, "no regional grouping has enough clout to solve problems as intractable as those of Central America."

The impotence of regional efforts was thrown into sharp focus last autumn with the formation of a "Contadora support group" composed of Argentina, Brazil, Peru and Uruguay.

Foreign ministers of the support group and their colleagues from Contadora last met in December when they urged adherence to the Contadora principles and appealed to Washington to resume direct talks with Managua.

Colombian Foreign Minister Augusto Ramirez Ocampo reflected the feelings of many when he said Central American peace moves were being hampered by

the steadily growing confrontation between the United States and Nicaragua.

According to Washington contentions, the ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) in Managua is the focus of all trouble in Central America, trying to "export left-wing revolution" and "fomenting unrest throughout the area."

The U.S. has combined its support for a 15,000-strong insurgent army with increasingly shrill rhetoric about the Managua government.

Contadora's only visible achievements have been several versions of a peace treaty — all drafted without direct contact with the guerrillas who are actually doing the shooting.

The first draft, presented in September 1984, was promptly accepted by the Sandinistas. The other Central American states, one by one, declared their agreement.

But after more than a year of

public backing for efforts to draft the pact, Washington expressed reservations and said it saw clauses on verification and control of treaty provisions left too many loopholes. The administration's allies in Central America followed suit.

The September 1984 draft would have sharply reduced the military involvement of the U.S. in its backyard, forcing it to end joint military manoeuvres, dismantle an extensive network of military and intelligence installations in Honduras, and end support for the anti-Sandinista guerrillas.

Now, several drafts and many Contadora meetings later, Nicaragua says it will not sign any Central American peace treaty unless Washington stops supporting the rebels.

On Dec. 7, Nicaragua asked for a five-month suspension of Contadora's efforts and the peace group agreed — with what one diplomat described as "an almost audible sigh of relief."

Khater becomes political symbol in Egypt

CAIRO — "Depending on their politics, Egyptians regarded Suliman Khater as a hero or a trigger-happy killer after he gunned down seven Israelis."

Now he is dead — he was found hanged in a prison hospital last Tuesday — he will be seen as either a martyr or a political embarrassment.

Khater has become a political symbol at home and in Egypt's tortuous ties with other Arab states and Israel.

The 25-year-old law student was doing military service in Sinai when he shot dead the seven Israelis last October 5.

The government gave him a closed-door military trial, apparently seeking to satisfy Israeli demands for justice while keeping Egyptian tempers cool. The court sentenced him last month to life imprisonment with hard labour.

Opposition politicians and some Arab commentators hailed Khater as a nationalist who struck a blow against Israel.

His death — the authorities say it was suicide, his family suspect it was murder — sparked student protests in Cairo and a rampage by people in his Nile delta home village.

His brother said the family believed Khater was killed by agents "with the collusion of the Israeli and Egyptian governments."

Arab commentators voiced doubts about the suicide theory.

Many Egyptians said the shooting could not be justified — Khater said in a published interview it was unintentional — but some privately welcomed his action.

The affair showed some were

still hostile to Egypt having relations with Israel. Most Arab states ostracised Egypt after it signed a U.S.-sponsored peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

Newspapers in Iran and several Arab countries praised Khater. Kuwait's Al Anbaa hailed him as "a symbol and an ideal for the Arab World."

Non-Arab Iran named a street in the capital Tehran after Khater and arranged a memorial meeting for Saturday.

The court said Khater did not know the tourists were Israelis when he fired off 49 bullets at them after they refused an order to stop.

In the interview, he said he favoured peace with Israel and the idea of revenge against Israelis never occurred to him. He added that he did not belong to a political party.

But Khater's death could keep the political climate warm for some time if anti-Israeli and Muslim fundamentalist groups seek to keep his memory alive as a political symbol.

This could delay government efforts to strike a deal for arbitration of its territorial dispute with Israel over the Sinai coastal strip of Tabca.

For a while, hardliners in the Israeli cabinet used the Sinai killings to hold up resumption of talks on Tabca.

Negotiations eventually met for two rounds last month and the governments are currently deciding their next moves.

Cairo sees a settlement as a precondition for other moves towards better ties.

ANC marks 75th anniversary

By Adrian Croft
Reuter

JOHANNESBURG — The banned African National Congress (ANC) enters its 75th year in a stronger position than ever before in its fight to overthrow white minority rule in South Africa, political analysts say.

They say the guerrilla movement has bounced back since the signing of a non-aggression pact between South Africa and Mozambique in 1984 deprived it of some of its key bases and threatened seriously to weaken it.

The ANC marks its 75th anniversary on Jan. 8.

Almost two years of racial violence and the government's refusal to cede political power to the black majority has fuelled the popularity of the ANC, which blacks still see as the most credible nationalist movement, the analysts said.

"The ANC's popularity is growing stronger by the day. Its following is increasingly organised, increasingly able to control people through (other) organisations," said Tom Lodge, a politics lecturer at Johannesburg's Witwatersrand University.

Robert Schrire, politics professor at Cape Town University, said the longer the government delayed dealing with black rights the more important the ANC would become.

"The ANC has become stronger because of adversity," Prof. Schrire told Reuters.

Schrire said the Nkomati accord of March, 1984, under which South Africa and Mozambique agreed to stop supporting each other's guerrilla enemies, had forced the ANC to grow tougher and more diplomatically sophisticated.

The number and severity of guerrilla attacks and the toll of white casualties rose sharply last year, against a backdrop of racial unrest in black townships which has claimed well over 1,000 lives since February, 1984.

White South Africans have been stunned by three guerrilla attacks in the past month which have killed 13 whites.

Six were killed in a landmine blast near South Africa's border with Zimbabwe on Dec. 15, two by a landmine Saturday night near the Botswana border, and five in a bomb explosion at a holiday resort near Durban on Dec. 23.

The attacks indicate the ANC is moving from a strategy of attacking strategic targets like fuel dumps towards more indiscriminate killing.

At a conference held in Zambia last June, the ANC decided that it would no longer distinguish between "hard" and "soft" targets and civilians could be caught in the crossfire.

Lodge said the conference had brought younger men into an ANC leadership dominated by the generation of Oliver Tambo, the 68-year-old ANC president. These men had a "much tougher approach to the way the war should be conducted."

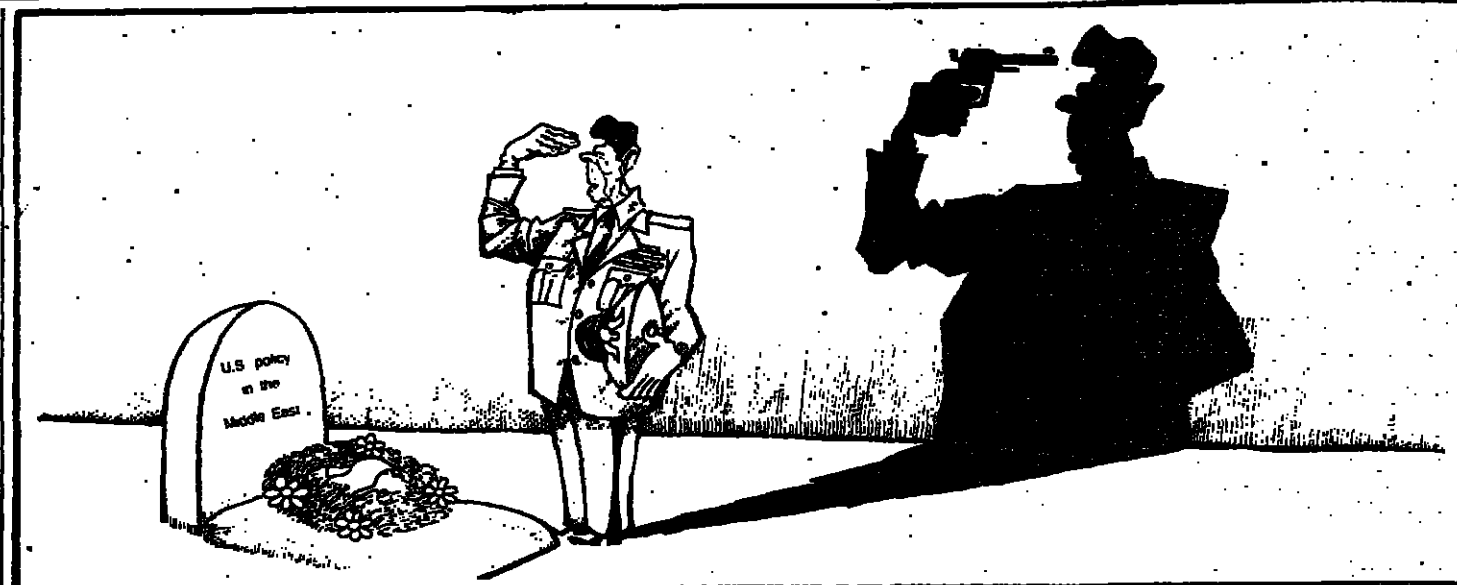
But analysts said the ANC leaders in exile in Lusaka probably had little control over militants within the country and had probably not sanctioned the Amantombi blast.

The South African Native National Congress, later renamed the ANC, was founded at Bloemfontein in 1912. Originally committed to change within the system, it went underground in 1960 after the government banned it. It formed a sabotage group, and moved closer to the South African Communist Party.

In 1964, ANC leaders Nelson Mandela and Walter Sisulu were jailed for life for sabotage, while many others went into exile.

The ANC's organised network in South Africa is small but it has a vast informal following, according to analysts.

Its prestige has grown in the last year as a steady stream of white politicians, businessmen and clergymen crossed the border for talks in Zambia and Zimbabwe.



Extradition of IRA guerrillas under a cloud

By Colin McIntyre
Reuter

DUBLIN — The extradition of suspected Irish Republican guerrillas from the south to the British-ruled north, a key element in cross-border cooperation envisaged by last month's Anglo-Irish accord, is under a cloud after a series of embarrassing setbacks.

Some legal experts and politicians fear that unless the present 20-year-old Irish extradition law is amended, courts will stop sending suspects to the north, leading to a new freeze in Anglo-Irish relations.

The latest problems began in October, when Dominic McGlinchey, once described as the most wanted man on both sides of the Irish border, was freed by a Belfast court after becoming the first person to be extradited from the south for what were previously considered "political" offences.

This followed a landmark ruling by the Dublin supreme court which redefined political actions, for which people cannot be extradited under the Irish constitution, as "what reasonable civilised people would regard as political activity."

McGlinchey was extradited with what many politicians regarded as indecent haste, only hours after being captured in a shootout with police in south-east Ireland.

But when he eventually came to trial charged with the 1977 murder of a 67-year-old postmistress, he was freed after the court ruled that fingerprint evidence was not sufficient to convict him. He was immediately sent back to the south, where he faces trial on other charges.

A few weeks later Brendan Burns, wanted in the north in connection with the deaths of five British soldiers in 1981, was freed by the Dublin high court after extradition warrants were ruled to be defective because of an elementary legal blunder.

The northern police inspector who put the warrants before a Belfast magistrate was not under oath at the time.

Then, in a virtual re-run of the McGlinchey case, the second suspected guerrilla to be extradited from the republic to the north, Seamus Shannon, was cleared of the murder of a former leading Northern Ireland politician. Once again it was fingerprint evidence that was found wanting.

Shannon, accused of the 1981 murder of the 86-year-old former speaker of the Northern Ireland parliament, Sir Norman Stronge, immediately announced he planned to sue the Irish government and the Northern Ireland security

forces for the time he had spent in jail.

Of the three cases, that of Burns was being followed with the most interest. He was the first person to be sought for killing British soldiers.

The three incidents came as cross-border cooperation in combatting republican guerrillas fighting to end British rule in the north was being highlighted by the new Anglo-Irish accord.

Signed in November, it gives the Dublin government a limited say in northern affairs for the first time.

Since the Irish authorities have been accused by Britain in the past of providing a haven for guerrillas, a clear willingness to extradite suspects was seen as an essential part of any Northern Ireland agreement.

However extradition of activists whose goals many Irishmen would share, even if they did not support their methods, is still a sensitive subject.

The respected Irish Press newspaper, voicing widely-felt concern, said the McGlinchey and Shannon extraditions appeared to have been the product of "an unseemly panic."

"Extradition was one of those grand gestures some of our politicians were anxious to make — at someone else's expense — to reassure the northern unionists."

The paper added: "It has proved to be a disaster area for all concerned and threatens to bring our courts into disrepute and create antagonism towards the police."

The Sunday Tribune newspaper, noting that those awaiting extradition normally ended up spending considerable time in jail, accused the northern authorities of operating a system of "intimidation on remand" for suspects and added: "We should not be aiding and abetting such an abuse."

All sides seem agreed that a change is urgently required in the 1965 Irish extradition law, which does not require courts here to ascertain whether a *prima facie* case exists against the accused.

The Northern Ireland authorities merely have to state in their warrants that they believe they have a case, and extradition can go ahead.

Legal experts believe an amendment to the existing law is even more necessary following Ireland's commitment in the Anglo-Irish accord to sign the 1977 European convention on the suppression of terrorism.

Ireland and Malta are the only two European states not to have signed the convention, which rules out the "political offence" argument by guerrillas fighting extradition.

Islands in the sun ponder problems of largesse

The islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe continue to retain their "Frenchness" in a Caribbean that is largely independent. David Hoag, recently in the Caribbean, looks at why these islands may be a little too French.

TWENTY YEARS ago General de Gaulle's first words when he addressed the crowds that had gathered to hear him in Fort de France, Martinique, were: "Mon Dieu, mon Dieu, comme vous êtes Français." ("My God, my God, how French you are.")

Notwithstanding the coconut palms and the banana groves, both of the Caribbean islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe are still very French. Beaujolais Nouveau lies on the tables of their restaurants in late November as it does in France. Village town halls and churches have been built with a Gothic nostalgia for the French provinces. The telephone booths are the same as in Paris — and just as often out of order.

The islands have among the highest living standards of any territory in the region, but economic and political uncertainties are beginning to cloud the horizon.

"Our problem is underdevelopment," Mr. Aime Cesaire, the poet-mayor of Fort de France, capital of Martinique, told President Francois Mitterrand on his recent visit when he greeted him at the town hall whose motto "Sinner France" ("Always France") had received a fresh coat of paint for the occasion.

The long decline in export earnings from the island's staple commodities of sugar and bananas has helped push up unemployment to about 30 per cent. Local industry has also been slow to develop because of the high cost of labour compared with other Caribbean states.

In nearby Guadeloupe, political squalls have followed on the heels of economic difficulties. Rioting flared in the city of Pointe-à-Pitre in the summer over the continuing imprisonment of an independence leader allegedly on hunger strike. This came in the wake of terrorist attacks earlier in the year by the clandestine independence movement Alliance Revolutionnaire Caraïbe (ARC).

Though the agitation has now died down, the massive security precautions that were in force for Mr. Mitterrand's visit reflect the continuing nervousness of the French authorities. "For us 1986 is the year that the Guadeloupe problem must be brought into the open," says Mr. Claude Manokouke, leader of the main independence movement L'Union Populaire pour la Liberation de la Guadeloupe (L'ULPG), with his eye on the forthcoming Parliamentary elections.

Both Martinique and Guadeloupe were incorporated into France as overseas departments in 1946 — a status intended to remove the stigma of colonialism and give their population the same rights as citizens of metropolitan France.

But in a Caribbean that is largely independent and eight hours flying time from Paris, the very "Frenchness" of the islands is beginning to have an anachronistic ring.

French assistance is paradoxically both too open-handed and insufficiently so. Martinique and Guadeloupe obtain from the

central government FF4,750 (\$620) per head of population in transfer payments and investments, compared with an average of FF700 in metropolitan France. Eighty per cent of Guadeloupe's gross product comes through aid from France.

But this high level of support and the heavy social security payments that companies in the Antilles as in France have to pay have pushed up labour costs to levels that are a disincentive to industrial investment. At the same time, the business communities on both islands have long proposed by importing from France — giving them little interest in taking the plunge into more risky industrial ventures.

Two recent events have further undermined the Antilles' economic vulnerability. The privileged position that the two islands had in terms of access to the EEC for their sugar and banana exports as a result of being French departments has been whittled away by the lowering of tariff barriers to other developing countries who are signatories of the Lome convention.

At the same time, the Reagan plan for the Caribbean has opened up U.S. markets to exports from a number of Caribbean countries, but not including the French Antilles. Mr. Cesaire warns that as a result, French investors "will find it more worthwhile to invest in Haiti or elsewhere in the Caribbean than in Martinique or Guadeloupe."

French help is insufficient in that the islands are increasingly aware that they will not be exempt from the budgetary squeeze that is hitting public expenditure in France.

President Mitterrand was in-

able to offer any crumbs of economic comfort in December. His message was to emphasise the need for regional cooperation within the Caribbean, self-help and the individual identity of the islands within the French nation.

The decentralisation undertaken since the Socialist came to power, and the creation of a regional assembly, has in Martinique at least gone a long way to satisfying demands for greater autonomy.

The two islands are very different places. Martinique has long been France's favourite son in the region — the island where its military headquarters are located and the administrative centre for the university system. A large majority prefers to remain part of France rather than risk the drop in living standards that would come with independence.

Guadeloupe has a tradition of more militant political and trade union activity and there are sharper differences in wealth. The ARC revolutionary movement has for the moment called a truce, but independence parties are said to represent anything up to 10 per cent of the vote.

France is being given strong encouragement by the U.S. to remain a major power in the region. The French presence not only helps the U.S. maintain a lower profile but the relatively high living standards of the French islands mean that there is no illegal immigration from them to the U.S.

Inhabitants of Guadeloupe and Martinique can instead freely enter and take jobs in France — an advantage that only a minority would want to give up for the greater uncertainties of independence.

Financial Times news feature.

Pope will bless tribal Christians by saying 'Khublei'

By Brahms Chellaney
The Associated Press

SHILLONG, India — Pope Paul II will say "Khublei" (God bless you) when he blesses an expected 300,000 tribal Christians at a mass in this hilltop "abode of the gods," also called the "Scotland of the east," next month.

The pontiff is scheduled to visit New Delhi, Ranchi, Calcutta, Shillong, Madras, Goa, Cochin, Kottayam, Trivandrum, Pondicherry and Bombay during a 30-day tour beginning Feb. 1.

He will be on a state visit the first two days of the invitation of Indian President Zail Singh.

The Pope has covered the deep-seated problems of many an Indian when they heard that the holy father is learning Indian languages to be closer with them," according to the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India.

Archbishop Hubert D. Rosario said the 700,000 Roman Catholics in northeast India "will contribute liberally to make this visit a memorable one."

It will be the first trip by a Christian religious leader to the strategic northeast since the Indian government enacted the Foreign Missionaries Regulation Act in early 1960s. The act barred the entry of new foreign missionaries to the region.

Many citizens of Shillong, famous for its waterfalls and pine groves, have started wearing colorful badges saying, "Pope John Paul II visits Shillong Feb. 4." The rugged scenery earned it the

name, "Scotland of the east."

"He comes from a far country but with a warm heart of friendliness," says one of the many leaflets on the Pope published by the local church.

More than 100 people are working full time to complete a large, four-tier wooden rostrum at Shillong's 18-hole golf course where the pontiff will celebrate mass.

The arrangements at the picturesque golf course will cost nearly 1 million rupees (\$83,300), according to Kirpal Singh, a supervising engineer.

Singh said the Pope will sit atop the 15-foot and 200-foot wide rostrum. Below him will sit the bishops. Cultural dances by the local Khasi tribespeople will be performed on the second tier, while other priests will sit on the bottom

section, Singh added.

"Pilgrims have already started preparing to come to Shillong. We are facing a gigantic task in providing accommodation to all the people who will come here," said Tarcisus Resto, the local vicar general, who expects 300,000 pilgrims.

Shillong, capital of the Christian-majority state of Meghalaya, has 200,000 citizens. The mountainous tribal state borders Bangladesh.

Authorities have started selling heavily subsidised food rations to northeast tribespeople, most of whom are Christians. Under the new scheme, tribal citizens can buy rice and wheat at about 50 per cent of the market price. According to Archbishop Rosario, the

Pope is visiting Shillong to "pay tribute to the work of the church" in the northeast India, a region that borders four nations and is linked to the rest of the country by a very narrow valley.

Resto said, "The role of the church in the region has expanded rapidly since the 1950s. We preach the Gospel and try to bring the rest into our faith."

The estimated 2 million Christians of northeast India embraced Christianity this century after the arrival of foreign missionaries. A majority of them are Protestants, while the rest are Roman Catholics and American Baptists. The missionaries' proselytising activities have drawn severe criticism from Hindu leaders, who have accused churchmen of exploiting the poverty and ignorance of tribespeople. Hindu leaders also have attacked the government for inviting the Pope, saying the tour will increase conversions.

Resto said the pontiff will tour India under very heavy security. "Security arrangements for him will be as tight as they are for a visiting head of state. The government has to decide whether he should speak from behind a bullet-proof podium," he added.

A hitherto unknown Bombay group, in a letter to the Vatican last month, threatened to kill the Pope if he visited India.

The 23 million Christians of India make up about 3 per cent of the population. Roman Catholics make up 13.5 million of the 2.3 billion Indians.

European Giotto probe heads for rendezvous with Halley's comet

By Stephen Powell
Reuters

LONDON — Europe's first major exploration of space, on its way to Halley's comet, is all set to probe the mystery of the most celebrated object in the heavens.

The European Space Agency's Giotto mission is due to fly within 300 km. of Halley's nucleus on March 13. It is supported, in one of the most ambitious space adventures of the 1980s, by two craft from the Soviet Union and two from Japan.

Giotto, launched in July, has covered more than half its 700 million km quest to send back the first information on what the heart of a comet really looks like.

It should tell scientists about the shape, appearance and colour of the nucleus and satisfy their curiosity on a host of questions — are there patches of ice, rocks, craters, hills?

The rendezvous will be the climax of centuries of fascination with Halley's comet.

American astrophysicist Carl Sagan has dubbed the cometary missions "a stirring response by the human species to this emissary from the depths of space."

British astronomer Sir Bernard Lovell told Reuters: "It's one of the most exciting space projects of the decade... if the probes are successful we shall obtain certain knowledge of the nature of comets. So far our knowledge has to a large extent been speculative."

The currently accepted hypothesis, developed by Professor Fred Whipple in the 1950s, is that the nucleus of a comet is a "dirty snowball", a mixture of ice, frozen gases and dust a few miles in diameter.

As the comet approaches the sun, the dust and gases are blown away, streaming behind to form the familiar tail.

Lovell singled out three main areas where the probes should increase our knowledge.

— The influence of solar winds, charged particles which radiate out from the sun at about 400 km a second. Many astronomers believe that solar winds help to account for the strange behaviour of comet tails, which sometimes disconnect themselves entirely from the nucleus.

— Information about the density of material near the nucleus.

— Testing the validity of Whipple's theory that the comet's nucleus is a "dirty snowball."

The missions to Halley's represent the combined efforts of 20 nations.

Giotto, a spinning cylindrical probe, is the first interplanetary spacecraft of the European Space Agency, which groups Belgium, Denmark, France, West Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Britain.

The 960-kg craft is named after

the 14th-century Florentine artist who incorporated the comet as the star of Bethlehem in his painting "Adoration of the Magi."

The Soviet Union's two Vega craft, which will help with the fine-tuning of Giotto's trajectory, carry equipment from nine countries, including the United States. They were launched in December last year.

Completing the flotilla are Japan's Sakigake and Suisei, meaning "pioneer" and "comet", launched earlier this year.

Proposals to send a U.S. spacecraft to Halley's comet were rejected in Washington for financial reasons.

But the Americans are still able to claim one cometary first. In September the U.S. international cometary explorer satellite flew through the tail of the Giacobini-Zinner comet.

This was the first probe ever to visit a comet and space scientists said the data it provided should help the missions to Halley's.

The U.S. probe gleaned information on unexpectedly strong magnetic turbulence and high-energy particles in the tail of Giacobini-Zinner.

Giotto will plunge into the comet at a combined velocity of 42 miles a second and will have only four hours to photograph and analyse its target.

To protect it against an expected cloud of debris, Giotto has a double-layer shield made of cloth and epoxy, the same material used for bullet-proof vests.

The probe culminates more than 2,000 years of recorded human curiosity in the comet.

With recent unearthings of references to its visit in 164 B.C. in Babylonian Cuneiform tablets in the British Museum, every return back to 240 B.C. has been observed and recorded.

If all goes well, Giotto will transmit colour photographs of the comet's nucleus to a centre in Darmstadt, West Germany.

The comet can now be seen distinctly by patient watchers in the northern hemisphere, but best viewing will be in the southern hemisphere in April when it passes within 39 million miles of earth.

After May, the comet will swing out of sight on its long journey back to the outer solar system, and will return in 2061.

The missions to Halley's are unlikely to still centuries-old controversy on whether comets are harbingers of disaster.

But the old superstitions that they bring catastrophes are now mixed with new scientifically-inspired concerns.

The idea is gaining ground among scientists that the extinction of the dinosaurs 65 million years ago may have been caused by the impact of a comet hitting the earth and sending up a thick cloud of dust.

Note: Due to an equipment failure, the JTV preview will appear in tomorrow's edition of the Jordan Times, while Marwan Muasher's Talking Straight will appear next Saturday.

Religious revival swells Islamic bank deposits in Egypt

By Kate Dourian
Reuters

CAIRO — A religious revival in Egypt is helping to swell the deposits of Islamic banks, attracting devout savers as well as investors willing to take a risk.

Now commercial banks are setting up their own "Islamic banking" branches to meet the challenge.

Established over the past decade in this mainly-Muslim country, Islamic banks work on a financial system derived from Islam, which bans usury — widely interpreted to mean interest.

While savers can place their money with the banks and are guaranteed to receive the full amount at maturity, investors can enter risk-sharing agreements with the institutions in which both sides accept that they might make a loss.

Yields are determined according to profits realised, and the investor is not guaranteed a fixed percentage yield.

Mahmoud El Helw, governor of the Faisal Islamic Bank, one of Egypt's three main Islamic banking institutions, says they are providing a new channel for sav-

ings. "We are not taking part of the cake from the commercial banks," he told Reuters. "There was a depressed demand for this type of

institution and we provided an outlet."

Helw attributes his bank's appeal to the growth of Muslim fundamentalism in Egypt.

"People were reluctant to deal with the banks for religious reasons," Helw said. "They refused to take any interest... because it is not halal (permissible) to take interest."

He said a boom in business for Islamic banks coincided with calls for revival of the Sharia, or Islamic law, in Egypt.

A small but vocal fundamentalist pressure group has been demanding Sharia law, resulting in several confrontations between demonstrators and police in Cairo earlier this year.

A Western diplomat said Islamic banks were attracting the religious working man who would otherwise keep his money "in a sock under the bed."

Helw said most of his 1.2 million clients were savers putting in less than \$5,000 and many were dealing with a bank for the first time. Faisal has more accounts than any other bank, with savings totalling \$1.6 billion.

Risk-taking investors can enter ventures with the banks under a variety of different types of contracts to insure against heavy losses.

Islamic banks work as trustees, investing deposited funds by participating in operations and trade.

Andalucia looks to become Europe's sun belt

By Francisco Rabinberger
Reuters

SEVILLE, Spain — As winter descends on Andalusia and sun-seeking tourists desert its beaches, local residents dream of ways to put this impoverished backwater on the map of tourism and industry in the 21st century.

Andalusia is already blessed by the sun and the sea. With some extra help from European Community regional development funds, local leaders hope they can reap the benefits of the next century's leisure market and clean high-technology industries.

The examples they have in mind for the region, one of Europe's southernmost, which shares the same latitude as Tunisia, are clearly

the U.S. sun belt and California's Silicon valley.

Jose Rodriguez de la Borbolla, president of the Socialist regional government, is involved in plans to develop Andalusia.

"We want to attract national and foreign investment to meet the challenge of post-industrial society," he told Reuters, pointing to a map which showed Andalusia, the home of one sixth of Spain's 38 million population, to be larger than Switzerland and Belgium combined.

The 20th century has bypassed Andalusia, where a lack of industrialisation and a feudal land tenure system have pushed unemployment above 50 per cent in some areas and forced about two million people to move to other

parts of Spain or abroad.

But local officials are confident that the region's 800 kilometres of sunny and largely undeveloped coastline, an unspoiled hinterland and the Sierra Nevada skiing resort will lure the leisure and high-technology industries of the future.

"There is a historical trend for industry to move south in Europe and the United States," said Borbolla, adding that Andalusia could attract sophisticated, non-polluting factories that would leave its tourist industry unharmed.

"People will retire earlier, working hours will be shorter and vacations longer," said Juan Manuel Castillo, the region's tourism minister, who has commissioned soc-

iological research into 21st century needs. "This is our market," he told Reuters.

He said the region was looking 25 years ahead and would not repeat the past errors which have turned a large part of Spain's coastline into a wall of high-rise buildings.

There are plans for "tourist cities" offering holiday-makers sports, hunting, fishing and libraries as well as courses in languages, gastronomy and archaeology.

Other projects are focussing on developing the hinterland with new hotels in restored historical places or built to blend into the scenery. One such hotel opened this year at Bubion, high up in the scenic Sierra Nevada mountains,

blending white bungalows into a maze of 16th century Moorish houses.

To attract tourism, there is a plan to build a formula one motor-racing circuit near Jerez to host the Spanish Grand Prix from 1986.

Poor communications have been among the main obstacles to Andalusia's development. It is not connected to Europe's motorway network and flights from Seville to Almeria, on the coast, are directed via Madrid.

Borbolla is banking on the 1992 world fair in Seville, which is expected to draw 20 to 30 million visitors to the regional capital, to offer the spur to improve the area's infrastructure. Plans have been approved to

build by 1991 fast roads to Seville from Madrid, from Malaga to allow easy access to Costa del Sol holidaymakers, and from Alicante through Granada to connect with the Mediterranean coast, motorway from France.

Also under study are a 160 kph rail link from Madrid, which would put Seville 14 hours from Paris, and a project to turn Algeciras into a major port for container ships and exports of agricultural products and cement.

Airports in Seville and Malaga will be enlarged to handle four and eight million passengers a year, respectively, and officials hope that in 1986 Britain will allow Spain to share the airport of its Gibraltar colony.

Patagonian Boers advise Afrikaners against new trek

By Anton Ferreira
Reuters

COMODORO RIVADAVIA, Argentina — The Boers of Patagonia have some advice for white South Africans: Begin political turmoil — don't do what we did.

At the turn of the century three shiploads of Afrikaners left South Africa for Argentina to get away from the Boer war against them.

Today about 400 of them live in and around this windswept town, 1,500 km (930 miles) south of Buenos Aires, farming sheep in the vast, flat emptiness of Patagonia.

They still speak Afrikaans (Boer is Afrikaans for farmer), attend the Dutch Reformed Church of their ancestors and ear-

South African delicacies like Biltong — dried meat.

But they have become as Argentine as the gaucho, drinking herbal tea and calling each other "cacha" (friend). Three generations after the Boer war, some fought Britain again under the flag of their adopted country during the Falklands (Malvinas) conflict in 1982.

"None of the Boers here wants to return to live in South Africa," said Gerardo "Boetie" Myburg, who was appointed Honorary South African Consul here five years ago.

He said that many white South Africans who are anxious to leave their country because of racial violence had visited Comodoro Rivadavia over the last year to investigate the possibility of settling

there.

"I advise them against it," Myburg said. "Taxes on farmers are high here and land is very expensive. Anyway, the situation in South Africa is bound to improve over the next few years."

Figures released in South Africa show that emigration has increased in recent months as the death toll from 21 months of rioting nears 1,000. The political unrest has also badly strained the economy.

Another member of the Boer community, sheep farmer Conrado Visser, said South African farmers would find life in Patagonia far more difficult than at home.

"Most of us in the community have managed to do quite

well, though we haven't become rich. But farmers coming out now would find conditions very different to what they are used to."

When Visser and Myburg get together over a glass of whisky their talk turns to sheep, drought and politics. They have enlightened attitudes to race.

"We've grown up away from apartheid so we don't think like they do in South Africa," said Visser, who has visited South Africa five times. "I was quite shocked at how they treat the blacks there."

He feels that changes are needed in South Africa if blacks and whites are to live together in peace. "You can't rule a country under (race segregation) laws that are 40 years out of date."

Myburg and Visser share the

South African government's suspicion of the press.

"We're going to erect a monument to the Boer community here," said Myburg. "But I'm afraid they might demolish it because of all the bad things they write about South Africa in the newspapers," he joked.

The Boer community here is highly regarded by Argentines for its role in founding the town and accidentally giving birth to Argentina's oil industry.

Desperate for water in the arid region, the first settlers demanded that the government drill wells. The wells found little water but lots of crude.

Eight of the first Boers who came to Patagonia are still alive. One of them, 88-year-old Lennie

Brekkie, remembers the hardships of the first years in Comodoro.

"There was no water, no houses, nothing. We had to build everything ourselves," he said. Another is Japie Eloff, 76, who lives on a street named South African Colonists in honour of the Boers.

For the Boers, the voyage to Patagonia was the third epic search for a new home made by families who first left the Netherlands about 300 years ago to settle in South Africa.

Their second migration, from the Southern Cape Colony to the interior where they founded the Boer republics of Orange Free State and Transvaal, is known as "the great trek."

Senator plays matchmaker to Washington Jewish singles

By Robert Green
Reuters

WASHINGTON — In Yiddish, a matchmaker is called a shadchan, and in Washington these days the number one shadchan is Senator Rudy Boschwitz of Minnesota.

"I hope you find a match — don't be shy," the tall, tousle-haired "Republican" told young guests recently at one of the Boschwitz-hosted singles parties that are attracting notice and stirring talk on Capitol Hill.

Then, to break the ice, the 55-year-old senator and millionaire Minnesota businessman — a Berlin-born Jew who fled Nazi Germany as youth — began introducing two of his sons to young women guests.

The occasion was one of a series of parties Boschwitz has organised for young unmarried Jewish men and women in Washington. This one, marking the Hanukkah holiday, attracted nearly 1,000 guests to a hotel ballroom near Congress.

Like many American Jewish parents — he has four single sons aged 19 to 27 — Boschwitz is concerned that intermarriage between Jews and non-Jews will dilute the ranks of American Jews, even below their current two per cent of the population.

Jewish community leaders say that the children of mixed marriages are often not brought up in either parent's religion or else join one of the dominant Christian faiths.

The problem is more acute in

Washington because many unmarried Jews have come from other cities to work and do not have families or friends to introduce them to eligible mates.

Enter Rudy Boschwitz, millionaire head of a do-it-yourself plywood business, U.S. Senator since 1978, concerned parent and, as it turns out, tireless matchmaker.

"This is an effort on my dad's part to bring Jews together," says party-goer Gerry Boschwitz, the senator's eldest son.

Many Jewish organisations in Washington have tried to bring young people together, including some synagogues that have Friday night services for singles, but the Boschwitz parties have become especially popular among young

professionals.

"There has been a tremendous response," Beth Gottlieb of Boschwitz's staff said. "Because the senator is hosting, people feel they will draw a better crowd of people."

Gottlieb said many older American Jews have written to Boschwitz asking him to help find Jewish husbands or wives for their children and grandchildren. She said the parties have grown from about 200 people earlier in the year to the Hanukkah party which jammed the hotel ballroom.

"We're a victim of our own success," said Democratic Congressman Larry Smith of Florida, who co-hosts the Boschwitz parties and promised guests a bigger

room for the next bash.

"There is an obvious growing need to find people of a like mind and culture," Smith said.

Smith, a notary public, offered to marry for free any couple who met at the party but there are no takers so far.

"This is a nice way to meet people," said Richard Miller, a lawyer from Baltimore. "They get a nice crowd. There's nothing like this in Baltimore."

"It's not like the bar scene," said Sharon Yablon, a schoolteacher who attended with friend Amy Levine. Both said they had boyfriends but thought the party would be fun.

"This is only the tip of the iceberg," said Scott Sugarman, an

examiner for the U.S. Patent Office, "referring to the size of the crowd. I think it helps their (Boschwitz's and Smith's) image and helps the community."

The guests paused briefly as a rabbi lit the Hanukkah candles, then went back to eating, drinking, talking and looking. One man distributed leaflets advertising a new year's eve party for over-35 singles featuring kosher snacks.

Singles could sign up for various activities outside the ballroom such as tennis, golf, trips and political discussions.

"Let's do this again next month," Smith said. "Does anyone know a Jewish holiday that falls in January?"

AIDS ravages New York's heroin addicts

By Arthur Spiegelman
Reuters

NEW YORK — A white cane keeps the door ajar to the tiny room in the rundown Times Square Hotel. A Bible lies open on the bed, an old television spews out the meaningless babble of an American cartoon.

Cockroaches race across the walls and over a hat that lies on the floor.

Welcome to the living hell of Alfredo V., a 24-year-old Puerto Rican heroin addict with bloody lesions all over his body, a man doctors say will be dead before winter ends.

He is the other kind of AIDS victim, a heterosexual and a heroin addict who has had drugs injected since he was 13.

Health officials fear that cases like Alfredo's are the bridge that brings the killer disease — usually associated with homosexuals — into the general population. Ninety per cent of all heterosexual AIDS cases in New York involve either an addict or someone in sexual contact with one.

The New York City Welfare Department says Alfredo no longer qualifies for help because he failed to fill out a form. It wants to cut his help off.

The city's huge Bellevue Hospital says it can do nothing for him by keeping him there. So he lives alone in his hotel.

Alfredo is a former pimp who used to run two "girls" to support his 200-dollars-a-day heroin habit, and his daily visits to a Harlem "shooting gallery" where he could get high in safety.

Both those women are now dead, one a suicide, the other a victim of AIDS — Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. The tainted needles they shared are leading to Alfredo's death.

"Everybody from that shooting gallery is dead except me," Alfredo says.

City health officials say the number of addicts afflicted with AIDS is rising dramatically, accounting for 34 per cent of all AIDS deaths in the city last year compared to 21 per cent for 1981 and 1982.

Now AIDS and its related illnesses account for half the deaths of heroin addicts in New York, 600 of the 1,200 a year. Soon it will be the undisputed major killer.

Alfredo's voice is a whine. He points to his left eye over and over again, saying, "I can't see nothing from it."

Often in the last stages of AIDS the victim goes blind.

Alfredo cannot read the Bible on his bed any more. "But I sleep with it and I pray with it."

He can only truly focus on his need for money. "Help me out," he tells a visitor. "You going to help me out?" he asks.

The only piece of paper in view in the room besides the Bible is the form letter from the welfare department telling him he is going to be taken off its rolls.

The day before Thanksgiving, the November holiday when American families unite, Alfredo called his brother and sister in Long Island, begging them to come see him. They refused.

Like many families with an AIDS victim, Alfredo is shunned by his own. The brother that turned him on to drugs died long ago of an overdose.

"They are afraid because of the children. I can't blame them. They are scared," he explains, as much to himself as to the visitor.

But then he describes what was for him a moment of pride in a life growing as dark as his eyesight.

"That was when he would visit Pauline, one of his 'girls,'" as she was dying in hospital of AIDS. "I wouldn't wear gloves or a mask. I would just go in to see her."

Pauline would not tell him

FIFA suspends Kuwait from international matches

KUWAIT (R) — The world soccer governing body FIFA has suspended Kuwait from international competition in a move linked to a multi-million dollar scandal over alleged misuse of state funds.

Kuwait Football Association (KFA) Secretary-General Khalid Al Harban told Reuters FIFA, the Federation of International Football Associations, told the KFA of its decision Wednesday.

"The Kuwait F.A. is provisionally suspended, i.e. no international contacts are allowed. This suspension does not affect local activities," he quoted a FIFA telex as saying.

It did not explain the reasons for the move, but said the Spanish chairman of FIFA's legal committee, Pablo Port Bussoms, would visit Kuwait soon to investigate the KFA's situation.

The KFA board was sacked last November after allegations of "financial improprieties" involving some \$4.5 million, and referees then went on a five-week

sympathy strike which forced the new board to enlist 15 foreign referees last month.

Harban said the ban also cast doubt on whether local club side Al Arabi would be able to take part in the Asian Club Championship, starting in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia in 10 days time.

But he said he believed the suspension would be lifted after

the FIFA official's visit.

The social affairs ministry last January told the KFA its 1983/84 accounts contained irregularities including expenses of \$1 million plus the cost of 40 tickets to Brazil for a training camp and friendly tournament which never took place.

A former KFA secretary-general was convicted last

November of embezzling more than \$250,000 by forging coaching contracts then pocketing the cash.

Harban alleged that Kuwait Olympic Committee chairman, Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the ousted KFA chairman, had misinformed FIFA about the current state of Kuwaiti football.

Britain wins Kuwaiti hockey title despite loss to Holland

KUWAIT (R) — Britain, helped by giant killing wins against Pakistan and India, won the Kuwait four-nations hockey title despite losing 3-2 Friday to the Netherlands.

World champions Pakistan, needing a win in the final game to have a chance of taking top honours, were held to a 3-3 draw by arch-rivals India.

Dutch captain Ties Kruize, judged player of the tournament, forged a hat-trick in the dying minutes of the Netherlands game with Britain, to end its spectacular record of successes here.

Britain, who Thursday beat Pakistan for the first time in 34 years after triumphing over India for only the second time in 38 years, ended the series a point clear of Pakistan and the Netherlands in joint second place.

Kruize put Holland ahead of Britain after seven minutes, making no mistake with a superbly struck penalty stroke.

But Britain, without injured veteran goalkeeper Ian Taylor and Thursday's two-goal hero Sherwani — fought back to equalise with a goal by Bachelor soon after the interval.

Kerly put his side ahead seven minutes from time but the Netherlands stormed back into the attack, forcing a short corner only four minutes from the end which Kruize converted. He converted another only two minutes

from full time.

India, plagued by loose defence in their earlier matches, appeared to have regained their form when they went 2-1 up against Pakistan in the first half.

M.P. Singh scored twice within five minutes shortly before the interval, in reply to an early goal by Oasim Khan.

But Pakistan struck back with a series of attacks in which Ferozi first levelled then captain Sardar gave his side the lead nine minutes later. India salvaged their pride with an equaliser three minutes later.

Both sides launched furiously into the attack and after bruising clashes, India's Somaya and Pakistan's Akhter were sent off to the cooler. Safar, of India, followed.

Safar, after completing his spell, returned to the game only to be sent off again three minutes from the end.

India, who won a similar four-nations series last week in Dubai, United Arab Emirates against Pakistan, Britain and West Germany, ended the tournament here the only team without a win.

They have played without three key members of the side, suspended over incidents in the Asia Cup last year.

Pakistan, too were sporting a new-look line-up, showing a lot of new blood since it won the Los Angeles Olympics in 1984.

Juventus, Barcelona to clash in European Champions' Cup

ZURICH (R) — Hopes that the 1986 European Champions' Cup would produce a "dream" final were dashed in Zurich Thursday when holders Juventus Turin were paired with Spanish soccer champions Barcelona in the quarter-finals.

The two-leg tie, to be played on March 5 and 19, will attract capacity crowds to both the Nou Camp stadium, where Barcelona will host the first game, and the Stadio Comunale in Turin.

But there will be a feeling of disappointment that two of soccer's greatest names have been drawn together at the quarter-final stage.

That said, the clash is packed with intriguing possibilities and the prospect of Michel Platini, Michael Laudrup, Bernd Schuster and Steve Archibald sharing the same stage for 180 minutes is one to savour.

The European Champions' Cup draw also produced two other outstanding ties and Aberdeen of Scotland will relish the idea of returning to the Ullievi stadium in Sweden, where they beat Real Madrid in the 1983 Cup Winners' Cup final, to tackle Gothenburg.

The Scottish champions will be at home in the first leg and if they

can take a two-goal advantage to Sweden they must be considered likely semifinalists.

Anderlecht have never made an impact on the European Champions' Cup but with either Juventus or Barcelona certain to go out the Belgians could be a serious threat this season.

Firstly, however, they must overcome Bayern Munich, European champions from 1974-76, though the Belgians have the advantage of travelling to West Germany for the first leg.

The remaining tie pits Steaua Bucharest against Finnish giant-killers Lahti.

With 1985 winners Everton part of the blanket ban on English clubs, the Cup Winners' Cup competition appears wide open and last season's runners-up, Rapid Vienna, should reach the last four at the expense of Dynamo Kiev.

Benfica of Portugal, two times European Cup Winners, remain the bookmakers' favourites and they should progress against Dukla Prague.

UEFA Cup holders Real Madrid should continue their defence of the trophy with relative ease against Neuchatel Xamax of Switzerland.

Boniek to quit after World Cup finals

WARSAW (R) — Polish striker Zbigniew Boniek said in an interview published Thursday that he planned to quit international soccer after the World Cup finals in Mexico this summer.

"My wife and I have decided I will end my national team career after Mexico," Boniek, a veteran of the 1974 and 1982 World Cups, said in an interview published by the sports magazine Sportowiec.

Boniek, 30, who plays for Roma in Italy, has scored 24 goals in 72 internationals.

Atkinson returns to Oxford seeking convincing victory

LONDON (R) — Manchester United manager Ron Atkinson will have no time for sentiment when he takes the league leaders back to one of his former clubs on Saturday.

United, five points clear at the top of the English League, travel to the Quaint Manor ground to take on first division newcomers Oxford and they need a convincing win to maintain the pressure on the chasing pack.

But Oxford, for whom Atkinson used to turn out as a burly defender in the 1960s, will not be easy prey at their compact home ground despite being fourth from bottom of the first division.

In recent weeks Oxford have shown flashes of fine form and threatened to send Tottenham tumbling out of the Football Association (F.A.) Cup Wednesday night before the London side levelled and snatched an extra-time winner in their third round replay.

United have not played for more than a week as their cup clash with Rochdale has been postponed several times due to bad weather.

Atkinson Thursday denied reports that he was poised to bolster his attack by signing Coventry striker Terry Gibson for around £500,000 (\$750,000).

"We have made no offers to Coventry for the player," he said. "Obviously we are interested in lots of players and looking for new signings all the time."

But the reports have fuelled speculation that gifted Welsh striker Mark Hughes is set to leave Old Trafford for a leading continental club.

United are being hotly pursued by champions Everton, Liverpool

and Chelsea, currently grouped together on 47 points.

Everton entertain Queen's Park Rangers at Goodison Park while Chelsea play hosts to Luton, another side enjoying an impressive run at present.

Liverpool play at Watford on Sunday.

Tottenham manager Peter Shreeve is likely to field a reshaped side against Nottingham Forest. England midfielder Glenn Hoddle, defender Graham Roberts and winger John Chiedozie were all injured in the cup win over Oxford Wednesday night and may be forced to miss the match.

Make or break for Steggle

Meanwhile, Everton manager Howard Kendall is set to offer on-loan midfielder Kevin Steggle a last minute chance to prove his worth and clear the way for a possible move to the English soccer champions.

Steggles joined Everton in December on a month's loan from struggling Ipswich. Kendall was ready to buy Steggle if the trial period was successful, but injury has limited his performances at Goodison Park to just one reserve match and the loan ends on Sunday.

But a crop of injuries has robbed Kendall of several first choice names for Saturday's encounter with Queen's Park Rangers and Steggle could be presented with the opportunity to parade his talents.

"It's make or break for me," he said. "I don't think a reserve team game is enough for anybody to make up their minds about me so I hope Howard Kendall gives me the chance."

Steggles is in contention because Everton, second in the table five points adrift of leaders Manchester United, are likely to be without Paul Bracewell, Kevin Sheedy and Trevor Steven, all of whom were hurt on new year's day.

Scotland's Frank McAvennie, West Ham's deadly marksman, is likely to need a fitness test on his injured knee before the Londoners trip to Leicester.

54 sailors prepare for solo round-the-world yacht race

NEW YORK (R) — Fifty-four sailors from 12 countries are gearing up for a 27,000-mile single-handed yacht race around the world that will offer more than \$100,000 in prize money, organisers announced Thursday.

Participants in the BOC challenge will set off on Aug. 30 from Newport, Rhode Island, and return to Newport some eight months later after scheduled stopovers in Cape Town, Sydney and Rio De Janeiro.

"This is the supreme individual test of a human being," said race chairman Robin Knox-Johnston, the first man to solo sail non-stop around the world. "Everyone who finishes this Everest of sailing is a winner."

Two classes of boats will compete — yachts between 40 and 50 feet in length and yachts up to a maximum of 60 feet.

Philippe Jeantot of France won the inaugural "around alone" race four years ago over the same course and will aim to improve on his winning time of 159 days.

Ten other sailors from among the 17 starters in the first race are entered for the second running, which is expected to feature 17 yachts designed and built especially for the race.

Entrants, who include two women, range in age from 21 to 61.

U.S. sailors are best represented with 22 entered, followed by France with 11, Australia with five, Britain with four, Canada, Finland, South Africa and Switzerland each with two; and Brazil, Japan, New Zealand and Portugal with one apiece.

Two Koreas end Olympic talks without compromise

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (R) — Olympic officials from North and South Korea ended two days of talks here Thursday without a compromise on North Korea's demand to cohost the 1988 Seoul summer games.

"Some progress was made but we have not reached a final agreement," Chong Guk Chin, vice-president of the North Korean Olympic Committee told reporters.

He said further talks would be held in Lausanne in June.

The meeting, chaired by president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Juan Antonio Samaranch, was the second direct encounter between the two countries over the issue. Talks in October foundered over North Korea's demand to split the Olympic events evenly.

The North Korean delegation earlier proposed that the two countries, which have no diplomatic relations, form a unified athletics team to compete under one flag in 1988, a move South Korean delegates dismissed as a bid to confuse the main issue.

South Korean chief delegate Chong-Ha Kim, asked if he was disappointed at the result of the talks told reporters: "No, not disappointed but also not satisfied."

Samaranch, trying to prevent the dispute from disrupting the Olympics, has already brushed aside the idea of North Korea cohosting the event as a breach of the Olympic charter.

The charter stipulates that the games be held in the country of the chosen city. Any exception would need a rule change backed by a two-thirds majority of the IOC's 92 member-nations.

North Korean warnings that it may boycott the games if its demand is not met have cast a shadow over the event.

Added weight has been given to the North's campaign by fellow communist countries led by the Soviet Union and Cuba.

China has praised the plan as worthy of serious consideration.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Kapitsa Thursday said Moscow still opposed Seoul as the venue but would take part if the games were staged jointly by the North and South.

He did not make clear whether the Soviet Union would boycott the event if the games were limited to the South.

Moscow led a communist walk-out at the 1984 Los Angeles games, following a U.S. boycott of the previous Moscow Olympics to protest against Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

Edberg downs McEnroe

ATLANTA (R) — Sweden's Stefan Edberg scored his first victory over John McEnroe Thursday night in an eight-man round robin challenge tennis tournament here.

After his 6-3 7-6 win Edberg, who won his first Grand Slam

event in Australia last month, said: "I don't think I could have served better. I know I can beat McEnroe if I play very well."

McEnroe, referring to a stomach flu contracted two days ago, said: "I look forward to playing a lot more matches with him. But these aren't the circumstances you want to hold them under."

Edberg broke McEnroe's serve in the fifth game of the first set to go up 4-2. McEnroe came back to grab an early 2-0 lead in the second set but Edberg rallied with overpowering returns and serves. At one particularly frustrating point, McEnroe broke his racket when he slammed it against the court.

THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN VOCATIONAL TRAINING CORPORATION (VTC)

Tender Announcement For Consulting Engineering Services of Manpower Development Project (Part A)

The VTC invites sealed tenders from consulting engineering firms who have been classified as class "A" at the Engineers Association in architectural, structural, electrical and mechanical fields for consulting engineering services to the above mentioned project.

A. Project description:

The project consists of the following components:
— Occupational Safety and Health Institute in Amman of total built-up area 2100 sq.m.
— Driver training centre at Hashemieh and Extension to the existing centres at Hashemieh and Yajouze. The total built-up area is nearly 2000 sq.m.
— Two training centres at Aqaba and at Safi of 2500 sq.m. each.

B. The project is financed partially by the World Bank.

C. All bidders are to submit their offers in two separate sealed envelopes. The first shall include qualification data together with an up-to-date grading certificate issued by the Engineers Association in 1986. The second envelope shall include prices along with a bid bond amounting to JD 500 valid for 60 days at least.

D. Project documents along with instructions for preparing prequalification statements may be obtained from the address below against a non-refundable sum of JD 25.

— The last date for obtaining the above documents shall be 18th Jan. 1986.

— The last date for submission of offers is 12.00 noon on Monday Feb. 3rd 1986.

E. All correspondence should be addressed to

Director General
Vocational Training Corporation
P.O. Box 925837 - Amman - Jordan
Tel. 667197, 667198.

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PASSAGE TO INDIA

(Colour)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

Cinema AL-HUSSEIN

Tel: 622112

MAD MISSION

(Colour)

Performances: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30

★ Cine Theatre Philadelphia

Tel: 634144 - 634149

CINEMA IS CLOSED

Cinema RAGHADAN

Tel: 622198

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(Arabic)

Performances: 12:00, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30

Cinema OPERA

Abdel, behind Alfa office

Tel: 675573

ROLLER BOOGIE

(Colour)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Friday. Tourist rates will differ from those quoted below.

One sterling	1.4530/40	U.S. Dollars
One U.S. Dollar	1.3560/70	Canadian dollar
	2.4580/4600	West German marks
	2.7700/20	Guilivers
	2.0870/90	Swiss francs
	50.10/20	Belgian francs
	7.5450/5500	French francs
	1673/1676	Yen
	202.25/35	Swedish francs
	7.5850/5900	Norwegian crowns
	7.5550/5600	Danish crowns
	8.9575/9625	U.S. dollars
One ounce of gold	340.60/341.10	

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (AP) — Shares closed moderately higher on Friday as the London stock exchange recovered some of the large losses it recorded earlier this week.

Brokers reported slow but steady business with sterling's strength helping the market to advance as it moved to close a three-week accounting period before a new two-week account starting Monday.

"We're looking a little healthier mainly due to some steadiness on the currency front," one broker said. "The one point on the base rate also looks as if it's holding for the time being," he added, referring to the one-point hike in base rates to 12.5 per cent on Wednesday.

"There had been fears that the base rate would have to rise further because of a continued rise in money market rates. Sections showing the strongest gains included mining finance, banks, construction and contracting and metals. Oil stocks rose slightly.

Government bonds were unchanged in the short-dated issue but 1/4 to 1/2 point higher in medium and long.

Consolidated gold rose 15 pence to 469 and RTZ was up 11 pence to 522 in a strong mining finance sector. One dealer said the sector had been boosted by a sharp rise in gold bullion prices.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, JAN. 11, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A good day for doing whatever requires your attention of a routine nature in such a manner that is more up-to-date and more in alignment with current conditions.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Know what your personal desires are and try to handle them in a more interesting manner and be happier.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) A good day to handle some public or credit affair that can bring you greater success. If you need a favor, don't approach an old foe.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Get into new kinds of activities that can bring you excellent benefits. Put your ideas to work quickly.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Plan some new way to handle your business affairs so they will be easier and more profitable in the future.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Put aside that Leo pride and contact those who can aid you at this time and you will get ahead faster.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) A good day to shop around for mechanisms that can make your work load easier and more profitable.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You can enjoy usual recreations with greater relish now. Keep a promise to your mate.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You want to make radical changes at home, but this is not the right time to do so, so study your plans better.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Be sure to handle correspondence and travel matters wisely. A word of praise to your partners will bring excellent results.

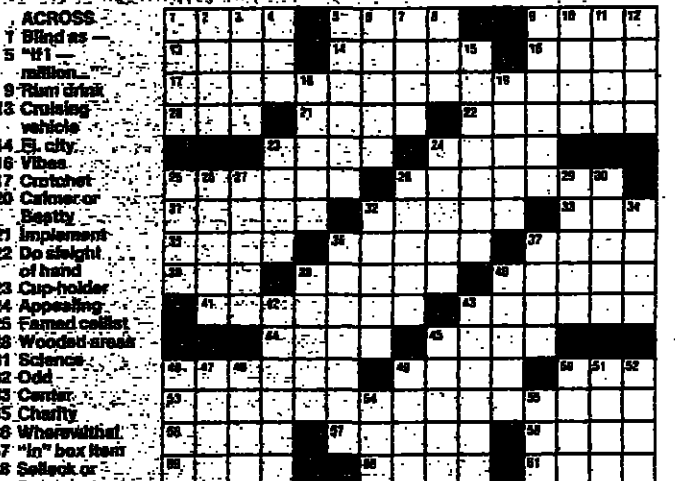
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Get busy at any "rough" work you can do yourself and save money. Let your budgeting be more modern and get better results.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Get your most original plans worked out successfully today. Take time to see persons whose ideas are as progressive as yours.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) If there is something you do not approve of at home, make the changes quickly and be happy.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be alert to whatever is going on, especially current events, and will also be very aware of modern conditions in the world. Don't try to change the unique way of doing things since the greatest success can come because of this trait.

THE Daily Crossword by William Landis



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. Across: 1. Pile of 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 220. 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Tutu fears Pretoria may resort to nuclear arms

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — South African Bishop Desmond Tutu was quoted Friday as saying that Pretoria's white minority leaders could resort to nuclear weapons if their rule started to crumble.

In an interview published by the Washington Post, the Nobel Peace Prize winner who is on a three-week tour of the United States, said Pretoria might try to bring down the rest of the world if its rule fell to black unrest.

"If, as most of us believe, they do have nuclear capability, I don't put it past them to have their own version of a scorched-earth policy," Tutu said of the white minority.

"I myself actually fear that in the end, because they are so irrational, they seem to have a Samsara complex... they are going to pull down the pillars and everybody must go under with them," he added.

The 54-year-old Anglican bishop also predicted the onset of "an ugly phase which has the potential for being horrible" in South Africa and warned that black moderates like himself were under growing pressure to advocate violence.

"You may find that even placid, quiet people like us have suddenly picked up stones and we are fighting," he said.

In Johannesburg, South Africa, Government radio accused a visiting U.S. congressional delegation on Friday of "foreign interference" and retarding South Africa's moves to dismantle apartheid.

The criticism came in an editorial on the South African Broadcasting Corp. on the last day of the Americans' four-day, highly publicised tour.

In the resort and shipping centre of Durban, meanwhile, police

Many blacks, though, call these changes cosmetic.

Earlier this week, a pro-government newspaper labeled the Americans "busybodies."

There was no immediate reaction from the six visitors, four of whom are black.

On Thursday, the six toured the rutted, garbage-strewn streets of Cape Town's Crossroads black squatter camp.

In the explosion, three policemen and two power company employees suffered burns when they raced to an electrical station in answer to the first of two blasts. Police said a second bomb went off 30 minutes later as the men were investigating the earlier blast.

The daily radio comment was titled "reform and the congressmen" and started off saying, "The American congressmen now on a visit to South Africa personify a form of foreign interference in the country's affairs that has grown dramatically in popularity among a certain kind of Western politicians in the last year or two."

"It finds expression in high-profile political activity which, while ostensibly designed to accelerate reform in South Africa, in fact retards it... practitioners of this variety of interference are invariably noted for, on the one hand, their superficial and one-sided knowledge of South African affairs, and on the other hand, their strong political ambitions in their own countries."

The radio comment said the Americans, by supporting sanctions against South Africa, slow reform because the government will only move away from apartheid in times of economic prosperity. Not mentioned is the widely held government view that South Africa, faced with American and European sanctions, is being punished for the liberalisation already accomplished.

Marcos rules out return to martial law

MANILA (Agencies) — Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos said Friday next month's elections would go ahead as planned and that he would not reimpose martial law unless Communists began attacking cities and there was fighting on the streets.

Mr. Marcos, who imposed nine years of martial law in 1972 shortly before his second term was to expire, said he did not believe the Communists had the capability to attack cities.

He told a press conference opposition candidate Corason Aquino's fear that he would impose martial law ahead of Feb. 7 presidential election was a hallucination.

"This is one of the hallucinations they have about the intent of the administration and the president," Mr. Marcos said, adding that he could not force reimposition of martial law unless the Communist New People's Army (NPA) miraculously acquired the capability to attack cities.

Mr. Marcos, who has been in power for 20 years, also said he was not campaigning in the countryside and concentrating in and around Manila because of "bad weather."

Mrs. Aquino and her running mate Salvador Laurel, campaigning vigorously across the country, have said they are certain to win unless the ruling party cheats on a massive scale.

Fears have also been expressed by opposition leaders that Mr. Marcos might not step down from power even if he were defeated. But he said Friday he saw no basis for such fears.

Mr. Marcos, who has frequently accused Mrs. Aquino of conspiring with Communists, said her husband Benigno Aquino had helped establish the Communist Party in the Philippines.

Benigno Aquino, an arch political foe of Mr. Marcos, was shot dead at Manila Airport in August 1983 when he returned home from the United States in the hope of uniting the opposition.

His widow, who is riding the crest of a popularity wave, has denied any connections with the Communists but said she would free all political prisoners and legalise the Communist Party if she became the president.

The biggest crowd yet of the Philippine presidential election campaign greeted Corason Aquino on Friday in the opposition stronghold region of Bicol.

Mrs. Aquino thanked the crowd for coming to show that "we will all fight Marcos" and pleaded with them to leave and come back for the evening rally.

People waved everything from green towels to yellow papayas, hailing the opposition team with the colours that symbolise their candidacy.

"Here, there is no more hope for the dictatorship," Mr. Laurel told more than 50,000 people who packed Naga's sprawling plaza more than six hours before the rally.

Seeing the huge crowd, Mrs. Aquino and Mr. Laurel ascended the stage to say a few words. When they asked the crowd how many would vote for the opposition, a multitude of hands shot up and waved, and cheering filled the plaza.

Crowds estimated by reporters at more than 100,000 filled the streets of Naga city and its surrounding suburbs as Mrs. Aquino and Mr. Laurel rode for more than an hour atop a small truck.

Several leaders of Mr. Marcos' party in Bicol have bolted in recent months to support his opponents, who won most of the region's seats in a 1984 National Assembly election.

India deploys 44,000 troops in Punjab to prevent trouble by Sikhs

NEW DELHI (R) — About 44,000 paramilitary troops and police were Friday deployed across Punjab to prevent trouble during a protest road blockade after the state's chief minister warned that he would deal sternly with lawbreakers.

The one-day blockade, which comes at the end of a week of Sikh extremist attacks in Punjab in which at least eight people have died, was called by the militant All India Sikh Students Federation (AISSF).

Police said they had arrested 280 members of the AISSF as part of the security operation surrounding the protest.

The federation is making several demands including the release of jailed suspected Sikh extremists.

Schools and colleges from which the AISSF drew support were closed in Punjab after students set fire to a bus in Amritsar Thursday to protest against the arrests, police said.

But Punjab Chief Minister Surjit Singh Barnala told Reuters he expected little trouble during the protest, adding that students would not be allowed to create trouble in the state.

Mr. Barnala said: "The students will not be allowed to create dis-

turbances in Punjab because the people are with us. They elected us and we will justify their faith in our government."

The protest is the first major confrontation between Sikh hardliners, spearheaded by the AISSF, and the moderates in Mr. Barnala's Akali Dal Party after it came to power in state elections last September.

The AISSF opposes a peace accord signed by the Akali Dal and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in July, ending a three-year campaign by Sikhs for greater autonomy in Punjab.

The Akali Dal directed its youth wing members to counter the protest by cooperating with authorities in clearing roads which an AISSF leader said would be blocked by 300 "commando squads" of activists.

AISSF Convenor Harinder Singh Kahlon said Thursday that the commando squads of 6,000 supporters would lead the protest, despite Mr. Barnala's threat of stern action against them.

Kahlon said members of the "commando squad" had gone underground in the last few days to avoid arrest.

Meanwhile in New Delhi, the chief defence lawyer in the Indira Gandhi murder trial Thursday

said one of her alleged Sikh assassins was shot and seriously wounded before the prime minister was gunned down.

Fran Nath Lekhi, lawyer for principal defendant Satwant Singh, said the prosecution was suppressing vital evidence in saying that the 22-year-old police constable was shot by other bodyguards after the attack on Mrs. Gandhi on Oct. 31 1984.

The prosecution has said Satwant Singh and the other alleged assassin Beant Singh were disarmed and taken away immediately after Mrs. Gandhi was shot to a nearby guardroom where other guards opened fire at them.

Beant Singh was killed and Satwant Singh seriously wounded in the unexplained guardroom shoot-out.

"Satwant Singh's turban was missing from the bundle of his blood-stained clothes," Mr. Lekhi told Judge Mahesh Chandra.

"The turban was not found because Satwant Singh was shot and wounded not in the small guardroom, as is believed, but out in the open near the spot where Mrs. Gandhi was shot. It must have fallen in the bushes amid all the hustle and bustle."

"Probably this murder was part of a big conspiracy," Lekhi said.

Honecker receives U.S. delegation

EAST BERLIN (R) — East German Communist leader Erich Honecker Friday received a delegation from the United States House of Representatives, one of the most senior U.S. groups ever to visit the country.

U.S. officials would give no details of the content of the talks but it seemed likely they focused on expanding bilateral economic relations and on world political matters, possibly including present U.S. strains with Libya.

The delegation was led by Tom Lantos, a Democrat from California and member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Members of the ways and means committee and agricultural experts were also present.

East Germany has cultivated good relations with Libya since the mid-1970s and East Berlin recently pledged support for Tripoli against any "imperialist aggression."

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz visited West Berlin but did not come to East Berlin last month when he embarked on a tour of East European countries. The most senior U.S. visitor here was the present Ambassador to Bonn, Richard Burt, when he was assistant secretary of state two years ago.

Meanwhile West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said Thursday he hoped East German leader Erich Honecker would pay a long-awaited visit to West Germany in time to sign a cultural agreement, ready in a few weeks.

But the chancellor made clear at a news conference in Bonn that he had doubts whether Mr. Honecker would find space in a schedule crowded with Communist Party conferences throughout Eastern Europe in the coming months.

Mr. Honecker was scheduled to make the first visit to West Germany by an East German leader in 1984, but the trip was called off under apparent pressure from Moscow. Since then there has been persistent speculation about a new date.

Mr. Kohl said he would be delighted if Mr. Honecker could be present for the signing of a cultural agreement which the two countries drafted last year after years of negotiations.

The accord would be ready for signature in a few weeks after all West German federal states had approved it, he said.

Haiti leader closes schools indefinitely

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — Haitian President Jean-Claude Duvalier has closed the nation's schools indefinitely and many students have been arrested after anti-Duvalier protests this week, residents said.

They said the biggest demonstrations were in the north-western town of Gonaives and the Port of Petit-Goave, 30 kilometres west of the capital. The customs house in Petit-Goave was burnt down, witnesses said.

The security forces made wide sweeps, picking up students in the streets or their homes, residents said.

In a radio broadcast, President-for-Li Duvalier, nicknamed "Baby Doc," ordered schools throughout the country to stay closed until further notice.

Residents of Gonaives said one schoolboy was shot dead by security forces on Monday and another student was killed.

Three students were killed during protests in Gonaives during demonstrations in November after a Catholic radio station was closed down.

Diplomats said Mr. Duvalier reacted to the latest demonstrations with a statement warning that people who disturbed the peace would be severely punished.

But he also announced price cuts for a number of basic consumer goods, including diesel oil, flour and cooking oil, they added.

Residents of Gonaives and Petit-Goave said both towns were now quiet although an unknown number of people had been arrested.

They described this week's demonstrations as more political than the November protests, with students calling for the downfall of Duvalier.

Pravda attacks U.S. over Afghanistan

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Communist Party daily Pravda Friday accused President Reagan of taking part in a Western media campaign to fool public opinion about Afghanistan.

Without naming him directly, a Pravda commentary said "residents of the White House" spoke of resolving regional conflicts while in practice trying in every way to complicate the situation around Afghanistan.

The daily said the Kabul government was seeking to broaden its social base and was promoting a constructive dialogue with non-Communist political forces.

But the country's development was held back by the "undeclared war" waged by the United States and its allies.

Pravda repeated allegations that U.S. military instructors were training Afghan rebels to blow up hospitals and schools and kill doctors and teachers. The guerrillas were also taught to dress in Soviet uniforms and kill women, old men and children in a bid to discredit the Soviet forces, it said.

they in practice strive in every way to heighten tensions around Afghanistan."

"Bandits and cut-throats" were described as freedom fighters so as to deceive the American and other people, and events were presented in a false light, Pravda said.

Another newspaper, the agricultural daily Selskaya Zhizn, attacked U.S. military aid to the Pakistani government, a regular target of Soviet press attacks over Afghanistan.

A commentary said the United States was using Pakistani Armed Forces as a means of putting pressure on neighbouring India's Non-Aligned foreign policy.

It also quoted Asian press reports as saying Washington wanted to deploy nuclear missiles in Pakistan.

Greek-Turkish row set to prevent NATO study

BRUSSELS (R) — A worsening dispute between Greece and Turkey over rights in the Aegean Sea is set to prevent the publication of a major NATO report for the first time, senior NATO officials have said.

They said it was highly unlikely that the alliance would be able to publish its biennial "force comparisons," updating the East-West military balance, because Turkey would not allow Greek forces on the Aegean Island of Lemnos to be counted.

"Barring a sudden and unexpected outbreak of common sense, there will be no force comparisons this year," a senior NATO official said.

The sources said both sides had dug in their heels with Greece refusing to accept any version that excluded the Lemnos forces and Turkey blocking any inclusion of the troops.

Turkey argues that the Greek island was demilitarised by the 1924 treaty of Lausanne but Greece says this obligation lapsed with the 1936 Montreux Treaty.

NATO officials said the dispute was particularly infuriating because the publication responded to widespread calls for better information to provide a basis for debate in public and inside the alliance on Soviet and Warsaw Pact military capabilities.

forces to NATO for the first time in autumn 1984, was unlikely to accept, Mr. Olcay said.

NATO officials confirmed that the government of Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu had been asked to think again about this solution but they doubted that it would agree.

Greece has boycotted all NATO exercises for the last two years, accusing the alliance of bias in Turkey's favour.

The two countries also disagree over air control and territorial waters in the Aegean, as well as the Turkish military occupation of northern Cyprus.

Greece has sought recently to improve frayed relations with the United States, which hopes to retain bases in Greece which Mr. Papandreu once vowed to shut, but allied diplomats said there was no sign that this new warmth would extend to ties with NATO.

"On the contrary, there are some signs that Mr. Papandreu, for domestic political reasons, may turn even more awkward

COLUMN

We Are The World gets 4 award nominations

LOS ANGELES (R) — We Are The World, the hit record that raised millions of dollars for the fight against famine in Africa, was nominated for four Grammy awards, the U.S. recording industry's equivalent of the Oscar.

Mark Knopfler, leader of the rock group Dire Straits, whose record Money For Nothing was a big hit, led the field with eight nominations, including for best record and best album. Sting, who worked with Knopfler on Money For Nothing, received five nominations, as did performers Tina Turner and Phil Collins and conductor Robert Shaw.

We Are The World, recorded by a host of U.S. pop stars including Turner, Michael Jackson and Ray Charles, was nominated for Record Of The Year, Song Of The Year, Best Pop Performance by a Group and Album Of The Year.

Mick Jagger was nominated for best rock vocal performance for Just Another Night. Julian Lennon, son of Beatle John Lennon, and Sade were among those nominated for Best New Artist.

Woman candidate poses in negligee

HOBOKEN, New Jersey (R) — Some politicians take off their gloves in an election campaign and come out swinging. Evelyn Arroyo, who is seeking a seat on the Hoboken Board of Education, has taken off her dress and set the whole town talking. A campaign advertisement in the local newspaper in this Hudson River waterfront town facing New York City shows Arroyo curled in a seductive pose wearing a silken off-the-shoulder negligee. The headline underneath reads: For A New Approach. The 21-year-old teacher's aide says one had taken her campaign seriously. "People aren't going to see my inside unless I show them the outside," she said.

Man attacks pilot when told not to smoke

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey (R) — A man told not to smoke aboard a twin-engine plane nearly caused a crash before another passenger beat him unconscious, authorities have said. During the fight for the controls, the plane nose-dived twice, dropping 666 metres in the first dive and coming close to crashing in the second, they said. A spokesman for Southern Jersey Airways said its plane would have crashed if another passenger, Robert Abrams, had not subdued the man. Abrams said he acted as he did "because I thought I was going to die. After eight or nine punches I knocked him out," he said. Authorities said John Johnson, grabbing the plane's controls when told to stop smoking, the plane was on a flight from Atlantic City to Islip, New York.

Woman kills 3 sons

CHESTER, England (AP) — A mother who admitted killing three of her sons has been sent to a maximum-security psychiatric hospital. Prosecutor Gareth Williams told Chester Crown Court, in north west England that Sandra Riley drowned her 8-year-old son Andrew in a bathtub last April despite his frantic efforts to climb out screaming: "Don't kill me, mummy." Mrs. Riley, 33, pleaded guilty to manslaughter and innocent to the more serious charge of murder. The prosecution accepted the switch because of her mental state. Williams said that three years ago, Mrs. Riley was put on probation for killing two other sons, Christopher and Philip, by smothering them when they were less than a year old. He said she was reported then to have been suffering from postnatal depression and that psychiatrists had said she was not a danger to her other children.

Turkish sex magazine seized

ISTANBUL (R) — An Istanbul court ordered the seizure of the second issue of the monthly sex magazine Playmen on grounds of obscenity, its publishers said Friday. A spokesman told Reuters the court took offence at an explicit description of the sex act published in the form of a letter. Three new sex magazines went on sale in Turkey at the end of last year, making a total of five on the newsstands.

Chinese leader defends reforms in major speech

PEKING (AP) — China's second-most powerful figure, Communist Party General Secretary Hu Yaobang, defended current open-door reforms to a major assembly of state and army officials this week, the Xinhua News Agency reported Friday.

The address to more than 8,000 party, government and military cadres showed that Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping and his reformers are "clearly on the defensive," one senior Asian diplomat said of the announcement.

Mr. Hu appeared before the gathering Thursday in Peking's Great Hall of the People, the official news agency reported a day after the event.

Mr. Hu cited nine major decisions taken since Mr. Deng came to power in December 1978, but according to the Xinhua report, market-oriented economic reforms only ranked third.

The economic changes are the keystone of Mr. Deng's policy but have led to corruption and debate over whether it is correct to use capitalist methods in a Socialist society.

Diplomats said the speech was the latest indication that Mr. Deng's reformers are encountering opposition. They already have announced there will be no new reforms in 1986, a year of "consolidation."

The consensus at the top is becoming a little frayed," said one diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Xinhua report mostly paraphrased Mr. Hu's speech but

quoted him as declaring that China had entered a period of rejuvenation by taking the road to "Socialism with Chinese characteristics."

He said the progress achieved so far was due to nine decisions by the party Central Committee: Rejecting Mao Tse-Tung's erroneous idea of "taking class struggle as the key link," and based on China's practical conditions, aiming to quadruple national output by the year 2000.

Thoroughly denying the 1966-76 "Cultural Revolution" and correctly assessing Mao, who was revered in his time but is now criticised for his mistakes.

Opening to the outside world and invigorating the economy with "gradual but resolute" reform, rural and urban.

Redefining principles on national defence in line with new historical conditions. The People's Liberation Army is shedding 1 million of its estimated 4 million personnel.

Readjusting foreign policy based on Chinese independence and peaceful reunification with Taiwan.

Reforming the cadre system to promote talented younger people. Sixty-four new members, average age 50, joined the party Central Committee in September upon the retirement of party elders. Similar changes took place in state departments and the army.

Developing a "Socialist civilisation," ideologically and materially.

Liz Taylor announces horse auction to fight AIDS

WEST HOLLYWOOD, California (R) — Actress Elizabeth Taylor, a leading fund-raiser in the fight against AIDS, announced Friday an Arabian horse auction and benefit next month that is expected to raise one million dollars for AIDS research.

Mrs. Taylor, chairman of the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AFAR), told a news conference that proceeds from the events in Scottsdale, Arizona, on Feb. 10 would be shared by AFAR and the Arizona AIDS Fund Trust.

The 53-year-old actress became involved in the fight against Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) after her friend, the late actor Rock Hudson, was stricken by the disease, which destroys the body's defences against infection.

"Though AIDS continues its relentless, savage course, we will not be defeated," said Mrs. Taylor, who organised a Hollywood fund-raising dinner last summer that raised \$1 million for AIDS research.

She also announced that the hit record That's What Friends Are For — sung by Dionne Warwick, Stevie Wonder, Elton John and Gladys Knight — had sold one million copies. All proceeds go to the fight against AIDS.

Bill Mischner, AFAR's executive director, said at least one million dollars was expected to be raised at the auction of between five and 10 Arabian horses donated by U.S. breeders.

Meanwhile researchers said Thursday the AIDS epidemic in the United States has already cost more than \$6 billion in medical bills and potential income lost due to disability and premature death.

Their study of the cost of the first 10,000 cases of AIDS in the United States, sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), was described as the first attempt to assess the economic impact of AIDS.

According to the CDC, 16,138 cases of AIDS had been reported in the United States up to Jan. 6, and the number of diagnosed cases is expected to double in the next 12 months.

The study said AIDS now represents less than five per cent of the \$10-20 billion total annual cost of medical care and lost income from infectious diseases in the United States.

But if AIDS spreads as predicted, the report said, it will eventually increase that annual cost by 30 to 55 per cent.

AIDS, which robs the body of its ability to fight disease, was first diagnosed in 1981.

Victims often require repeated stays in hospital as they fall prey to cancer, pneumonia and other illnesses.

AIDS also strikes many young victims, so the loss of potential earnings is high, the study said.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SEARF
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DEAR MR. GOREN

Q.—In a rubber bridge game, I picked up:
♠ Qxxx ♣ Jxx ♢ xxx ♣ xxx
My left-hand opponent opened the bidding with one heart, partner doubled and my right-hand opponent bid one spade. Naturally I passed, as did my left-hand opponent. Partner doubled again and everyone passed. The opponents made their contract with a vulnerable overtrick and on the next hand ran out the rubber. Partner was highly critical of my pass, but what could I do?—J.R., Detroit, Mich.

A.—Partner had every right to be critical. He asked you to choose between two unbid suits and you let him down.

How were you to know that partner's second double was still for takeout? Partner's first double was clearly a takeout double. Since you have not yet bid and the opponents are still at the one-level, partner's second double is still for takeout.

True, you don't have a very attractive hand, but partner is not expecting much from you. Since you have no clear choice between the two suits he has asked you to consider, you should have made the cheapest bid available—in this case, two clubs.

Q.—We play five-card majors, so a rebid of spencer's major suit guarantees five cards. I opened one heart and partner responded two diamonds. What should I have bid

with:
♠ A95 ♣ KQ763 ♢ 9 ♣ KJ63
Since I couldn't rebid two hearts and my hand certainly wasn't good enough for the high reverse of three clubs, I tried two no trump and partner raised to game. That was unmakeable, but we might have come to 11 tricks at a dub contract.

What would you suggest?—E.H., W. Hartford, Conn.

A.—When you use five-card major methods, you certainly would like to have a six-card suit when you rebid your major. And when partner has left you lots of room for your rebid, for instance by responding one spade to your one heart opening bid, a heart rebid would certainly promise a six-card suit.

This case, however, is different. Partner's two diamond response has consumed all your bidding space. You would like to find some bid other than two hearts, but any other response has major flaws. No trump is unsuitable because, with your singleton diamond, there is no ready source of tricks if partner is short in hearts. Under the circumstances, all you can do is rebid two hearts and wait to see how the bidding develops.

When you rebid your suit under pressure of space constraints, partner should bear in mind that you might be rebidding a five-card suit because you have no other bid available.

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